



FINANCIAL TIMES

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***35p

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Kites: sky-high fun at down to earth prices

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Car bomb kills 50 in Beirut suburb

A car bomb exploded in Beirut's southern suburb of Bir Al-Abed yesterday afternoon killing about 50 people and wounding 150.

The bomb went off near the home of senior Moslem Shi'ite leader Sheikh Mohammed Hussein Fadlallah, believed to be the spiritual head of the Hezbollah movement, which groups the extremist fringes of the Shi'ite sect.

Gunmen shot into the air to clear the way for ambulances after the blast, which partially destroyed a building, set nearby cars ablaze, and sent glass and debris flying through the air.

The bomb came at a time of increased confrontation in South Lebanon between the Israeli Army and the increasing

ingly militant local Shi'ite population. It followed threats by Israeli officials to tighten measures in cracking down on resistance fighters escalating guerrilla attacks on Israeli soldiers south of the Litani River.

State Minister for South Lebanon and leader of the Shi'ite Amal movement, Mr Nabih Berri, warned this week that every Israeli raid on a Lebanese village would be followed by an attack against Israeli settlements in Upper Galilee.

Beirut-based journalists have been banned from travelling in South Lebanon by Israeli military authorities who have detained at least half a dozen correspondents over the past week.

WORLD NEWS

Pit strikers set to return

The 2,000 miners in Kent and the 3,000 miners at some Scots pits who have remained on strike in support of their colleagues sacked during the dispute are likely to vote this weekend for a return to work. Back Page: Steel urges MacGregor sacking, Page 4.

Navy officer rescued

Royal Marines have rescued Lt Commander Clive Waghorn trapped in an Antarctic island since Monday.

Four years jail for pilot

'Airline' pilot Peter Hogg was sentenced to three years' jail for manslaughter of his wife, whose body he disposed of in West Water lake eight years ago, and one year for obstructing a coroner and committing perjury in later divorce proceedings.

German blasts

An ultra-left group claimed responsibility for three bomb attacks on West German mining targets, accusing the industry of failing to support the British miners' strike. There were no casualties. Page 2.

Third Newry charge

The RUC has charged a third man, Paul Maguire, with the murder of three of the nine officers killed in the mortar attack on Newry police station eight days ago.

London talks on Cyprus

Cypriot President Spyros Kyprianou had talks in London on the prospects for a resumption of the negotiations between Greek and Turkish Cypriots on the island's future.

Milk price up

The doorstep price of milk is expected to go up 1 pence to 25p from April 1, following an agreement to raise the price at which the Milk Marketing Board sells to the dairy trade.

Coca-Cola chief dies

Robert Woodruff, chief management figure in Coca-Cola until 1955 and the man behind its worldwide expansion, died at 85.

Second-home for Tate

Agallery in house part of the Tate gallery collection is to be built in Liverpool at a cost of £5m, Environment Secretary Patrick Jenkins said.

MARKETS

DOLLAR

New York luncheon: DM 3.4015
FFR 10.385
Swf 2.895
Y251.
London: DM 3.4125 (3.397)
FFR 10.57 (10.582)
Swf 2.9 (2.903)
Y261.6 (261)
Dollar Index 155.4 (155.7)
Tokyo close Y251.65

U.S. LUNCHTIME RATES

Fed Funds 8.1%
3-month Treasury Bills: 8.6%
Long Bond 9.51%
yield: 11.74
GOLD

New York: Comex March latest
\$28.6
London: \$2912 (\$289)
Chief price changes yesterday. Back Page

Lloyds lifts profits 12%

LLOYDS BANK reported a 12 per cent rise in taxable profits in 1984 to £468m, bringing the total pre-tax earnings of the big four clearing banks to just under £2bn, an increase of 12 per cent.

Lloyds announced a one for two swap issue to "lighten" its share price and make it more accessible in the small investor. Back Page: Steel urges MacGregor sacking, Page 4.

SWEDISH Government imposed a temporary price freeze amid renewed fears that its target of halving inflation is under threat. Back Page

FINANCIAL Corporation of America, parent of the biggest savings and loan institution in the US, believes its loss for 1984 was between \$500m and \$700m.

GAS: A consortium of oil companies led by Trafalgar House is to break British Gas's grip on the sale of gas in the UK. Page 5.

OPEC: Five leading Opec oil ministers are to meet on March 19 to assess the results of the first investigation by international accountants of the organisation's production and pricing.

DUMPING DUTIES of up to 35 per cent have been imposed on Japanese makers of hydraulic excavators by the European Commission. Back Page

RALIFAX Building Society, Britain's biggest, is to tap the capital markets for the first time to raise £100m through a five-year syndicated loan. Meeting to set mortgage rate. Page 3.

KLEBER, loss-making subsidiary of the Michelin tyre group, is negotiating an aid package of FF 860m (£78m), mainly from nationalised banks, to help restructure its balance sheet. Page 23.

PIRELLI Italian tyres and cables group, is to make redundant almost 2,400 workers in Italy, or 22 per cent of the tyre subsidiary's Italian workforce. Page 23.

MINAS GERAIS state government in Brazil put up for sale its 18 per cent shareholding in Fiat Automóveis, Brazilian manufacturing subsidiary of Fiat, for which it is hoping to raise \$450m (£422m). Page 23.

DEE Corporation, supermarket group, emphasised track record and earnings potential in the offer document for its £330m bid for Booker McConnell. Page 22.

Grand Met and Northern are believed to be discussing the exchange of Grand Met's five northern milk depots and

3-month interbank: closing rate 13 1/4% (13 1/4)
3-month eligible bills: buying rate 13 1/4% (13 1/4)

STOCK INDICES
FT Ord 988.1 (+0.5)
FT-A All Share 619.6 (619.59)
FT-SE 100 1,258.8 (+2.8)
FT-A long gilt yield index:
High coupon 10.78 (10.83)
New York luncheon:

FT Ind Av 1,272.64 (1,271.53)
Tokyo: Nikkei Dow 12,347.53 (-67.27)

CONTINENTAL SELLING PRICES: Austria Sch 18; Belgium Fr 38; Denmark Kr 7.25; Italy L1,300; Netherlands Fr 2.50; Norway Kr 6.00; Portugal Esc 60; Spain Pta 110; Sweden Kr 6.50; Switzerland Fr 2.20; Ireland 60p; Malta 50c.

BTR wins Dunlop in surprise deal

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR

BTR and Dunlop have ended their fierce seven-week takeover battle with a surprise merger agreement. BTR is to increase the value of its offer for Dunlop to £101m—more than double its earlier figure.

Sir Owen Green, BTR's chairman, and Sir Michael Edwards, his counterpart at Dunlop, met for three hours yesterday at Sir Owen's suggestion. They put their signatures to a deal just before 6pm.

If Dunlop's shareholders accept the offer, the takeover will add £1bn to BTR's turnover, creating a company with annual sales of £4.5bn and products ranging from aviation braking systems to "Pretty Polly" lights and from tennis-rackets to construction materials.

Explaining the sharp increase in the value of the bid—which was 12p more than Dunlop's closing price yesterday of 51p—Sir Owen said: "We had a long and free discussion and exchanged information and facts. As a result, we obtained a much better understanding of Dunlop 1985 and its prospects. There has been quite a domestic improvement in the last two months."

"We feel that our offer of 63p for each ordinary share represents a value which is very fair to shareholders."

BTR, a broadly based conglomerate, has tripled the value of its bid for Dunlop's ordinary shares to 201m, or 63p in cash. This compares with the original offer worth about 22p in shares or 20p cash.

No change is being made in the preference share offer, which remains seven BTR shares for every 55 preference

shares of Dunlop, or 75p in cash.

The effect is to push the overall value of the bid up from £44m to £101m.

Yesterday's agreement between the two companies was announced only hours after BTR said that its original offer had been accepted by the holders of just 0.34 per cent of Dunlop's shares. Dunlop had been preparing to reveal much more financial information early next week as part of its defence against the BTR offer.

Dunlop has also dropped plans to carry out a financial reconstruction involving a £100m rights issue. This was to be a revised version of a plan to put its finances on a sounder footing, first unveiled in January when it said it had outstanding debts £435m.

BTR has yet to decide whether to allow Dunlop's proposed sale of its US subsidiary—Dunlop Tire and Rubber—to its management for \$120m (£113m) to go ahead. If this does go through, total disposals by Dunlop this year would have reduced its debt by £300m.

Sir Michael said he had not thought about his own future in the light of the takeover agreement. He added: "There is a point of view that a takeover amounts to constructive dismissal." Sir Michael, who only took over at Dunlop last November, has a three-year contract guaranteeing him £156,000 a year.

Pegi Malaysia, Dunlop's largest shareholder with a 26 per cent stake, intends to accept the BTR offer. Dunlop's 53 banks, which have spent the

Continued on Back Page

Lex, Back Page

CALENDAR OF BID BATTLE

Jan 15: Dunlop unveils £142m refinancing programme.

Jan 17: Dunlop shares return to trading after six week suspension.

Jan 18: BTR launches £23m takeover bid which Dunlop rejects as "grossly inadequate and opportunistic."

Jan 31: BTR offer document says Dunlop refinancing package would involve massive dilution for shareholders and a precarious investment in an unprofitable company with high borrowings and an uncertain future.

Feb 8: Dunlop shareholders vote to delay decision on refinancing package while company revises plans.

Feb 11: Michael Edwards,

Dunlop chairman, accuses BTR of using "personal threats" in its takeover tactics.

Feb 22: First closing date of BTR offer. Accepted by holders of only 0.26 per cent of ordinary shares. Offer extended.

Feb 27: Takeover Panel referee BTR attempt to pressure Dunlop into revealing more financial information.

March 5: News leaks of Dunlop plan for management buy-out of US subsidiary as part of defence strategy.

March 7: Second closing date of BTR offer. Accepted by 0.34 per cent of ordinary shareholders.

Mercury wins first round in network link battle

BY JASON CRISP

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS has won the first round in a legal battle with British Telecom over the interconnection of their telecommunications networks.

At a private hearing in the High Court yesterday, Mercury, which is building a telecommunications network to rival BT's, was given immediate judgment on its claim that heads of agreement on interconnection reached last summer were not legally binding. A BT counterclaim was struck out.

The rules on interconnection are of critical importance to Mercury, a subsidiary of Cable and Wireless. Mercury is building a trunk telephone network between main UK cities. It needs links with BT's network for most of its local connections. The dispute is over the switched telephone services.

Mercury said yesterday: "It was necessary... to take this

court action to preclude British Telecom from imposing its own restrictive terms of interconnection."

Shortly before the legal proceedings started Mercury asked the Office of Telecommunications, the regulatory authority, to intervene in the dispute and decide on the terms of interconnection. Mercury is understood to be keen for Oftel to determine the terms of interconnection whereas BT has argued that the office has no jurisdiction over the matter.

There is still some uncertainty as to Oftel's powers to act in the dispute. However, it is unlikely that Oftel could become involved before BT has decided whether to appeal against yesterday's decision.

All BT would say last night is: "It is, of course, too early to comment."

Grand Met seeks to sell dairies

BY CHARLES BATCHELOR

GRAND METROPOLITAN, the hotels, brewing and foods group, is discussing the sale of its Express Dairies milk business in the North of England to Northern Foods of Hull. The move could herald the sale of its entire Express Dairies operation.

Neither company would give details of the proposed deal yesterday. However, City analysts said there was widespread speculation that Grand Met planned ultimately to dispose of Express Dairies, which made a trading profit of £16.4m on sales of £778m in the year ended September 1984.

Grand Met and Northern are believed to be discussing the exchange of Grand Met's five northern milk depots and

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Minister attacks City

By Robin Reeves,
Welsh Correspondent

CITY OF LONDON institutions were accused by a Cabinet Minister last night of largely ignoring the financial and investment needs of Britain's traditional manufacturing areas thereby imposing a major handicap on Britain's industrial recovery.

Societies to set home loan rates after Budget

BY MARGARET HUGHES

BUILDING SOCIETIES are to hold a special meeting after the Budget on March 21 to make a final decision on interest rates. This was confirmed yesterday by the Building Societies Association (BSA) following its monthly council meeting.

The decision coincided with the announcement by the Halifax, Britain's largest building society, that it is to tap the syndicated loan markets for the first time to raise £100m. This funding, it said, would help to ensure that it remained competitive in the mortgage market.

Unless there is a reduction in bank base rates between now and the BSA Council meeting, societies are expected to increase mortgage rates by 1 per centage point.

At the same time, societies are expected to increase the returns which they pay to investors by three quarters of a percentage point.

Building societies' interest rates have been well out of line with market rates for several weeks.

An indication of the increased competition for funds is the launch yesterday of a new account from the Anglia Building Society. This instant-access high-interest account, called the Instant Liquid Gold, offers the return of 9 per cent net of basic rate tax, equivalent to 12.86 per cent gross. This matches the return of the best of the major societies' short-notice accounts, the Woolwich Prime Account launched only two weeks ago. However, only £250 is required to open the Anglia account —

Consortium set to break British Gas supply hold

BY DOMINIC LAWSON

BRITISH GAS's grip on the sale of gas in the UK is set to be broken by a consortium of oil companies led by Trafalgar House, the construction to oil conglomerate.

It will be the first time that private industry has taken advantage of the Oil and Gas Enterprise Act of 1982, which ended the requirement of gas producers to offer their gas to the British Gas Corporation.

The Government has been irritated by the inability of the oil industry to break the corporation's effective monopoly.

The gas field in question is not in the North Sea, but is a rare example of an onshore UK gas field, in Blitchington, Surrey. Trafalgar House has agreed terms, in principle, to sell the gas to the Laporte chemical plant in nearby Redhill.

The Government has yet to give permission for the field to be developed, but is likely to be enthusiastic.

The field is thought to contain about 5bn cubic feet of gas, and it is planned to sell the gas at a rate of about 700,000 cu ft a day. Trafalgar will construct a pipeline from the field.

Shiprepair yard talks continue

BY ANDREW FISHER, SHIPPING CORRESPONDENT

READHEADS, the Tyneside ship-repair yard which was hailed by the Government as a model of how privatisation could work, was yesterday still holding talks with neighbouring yards over a possible solution to its financial difficulties.

Neither Readheads, formerly part of state-owned British Shipbuilders, nor privately-owned Tyne Dock Engineering, with

whom it has been holding talks, would comment on the discussions.

The problems of Readheads are likely to come as an embarrassment to the Government, since both Mrs Thatcher and Mr Norman Lamont, Industry Minister, have praised the company. It was formed in 1983 when 80 former BS workers pooled their redundancy payments.

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Famous Grouse perched to take on U.S.

By Richard Tomkins

THE FAMOUS GROUSE has found a very comfortable nest over the pond. It was announced this week that the Scotch whisky blended by Matthew Groat and Son, a Highland Distilleries subsidiary, was to be marketed and distributed in the U.S. by Hirschman, a subsidiary of R.J. Reynolds, the tobacco group in June.

The move is a significant one. Hirschman is the second-largest spirits marketer and distributor in the U.S. after Seagram and has the muscle to deliver on its stated aim of turning The Famous Grouse into a top-selling premium Scotch there.

The Famous Grouse is one of the Scotch whisky industry's success stories. Although an old-established blend, its name helped the extent of its popularity until the takeover of Matthew Groat by Highland Distilleries 15 years ago.

Its house-building company completed 2,335 homes last year, and it has interests in North Sea oil services, hire and sale of diesel generators and in shipping. — all is a far cry from the great fleet of whaling ships on which the company founded its fortune.

Although the UK is by far the most important market for The Famous Grouse, Highland Distilleries has been trying to broaden its base and has invested heavily in promoting the blend overseas. Exports last year rose by 23 per cent as a result, albeit from a very small base.

It attempts to penetrate the U.S. have been limited and have concentrated on the affluent markets of northern California and Texas. These moves have been expensive without greatly increasing sales but in catching Heinlein's attention, they have been an unalloyed success.

British Gas is likely to regard the deal with displeasure, as the thin end of the wedge. Several oil companies have discussed with ICI the possibility of selling gas from the North Sea direct to ICI's Billingham chemical complex.

The Trafalgar consortium is thought to have offered Laporte a price about 10 per cent below the 27p per therm charged by the corporation to industrial customers of interruptible gas. Trafalgar House has told the Government that it will withdraw its bid for the Yarrow shipyard, if the Government does not choose between it and GEC, by March 21st. Technically, the yard will go to the bigger bidder, but the Government is able to go back to the companies and ask them to raise their offers.

Bank to issue £600m gilts

By Philip Stephens

THE BANK OF England took advantage of a more confident tone in the gilt-edged market to announce the issue of an additional £600m of existing stocks.

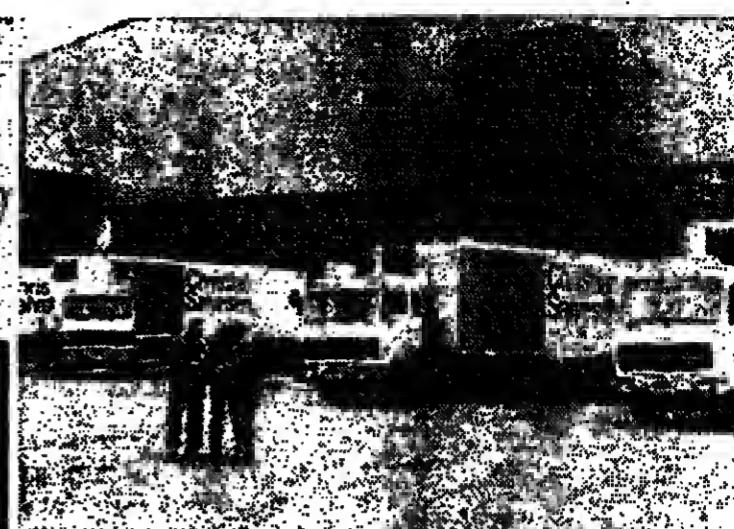
The stocks, £280m of 9 per cent Treasury 1994, £200m of 10½ per cent Treasury 1999 and £200m of 10 per cent Conversion 2002 — will go on sale on Monday.

The announcement was seen in the market as an indication that the authorities hope to use any sustained rally ahead of the Budget as an opportunity to step up its funding.

Yesterday, long-dated gilts rose by up to 4 points as sterling held steady on foreign exchange markets and sterling interest rates edged lower.

Stefan Wagstyl traces the growth of a diversified company founded on whaling

Christian Salvesen prepares for its public debut



Mr Gerald Elliot: chairman of Christian Salvesen. Distribution is just one company activity

CHRISTIAN SALVESEN, one of the UK's largest private companies, announced yesterday that it plans a Stock Exchange flotation this year, probably in the early summer.

Merchant banker Kleinwort Benson is to bring the company to market by means of an offer for sale with the help of the company's stockbroker, Hoare Govett.

The Edinburgh-based group, which has interests in food processing and distribution, marine and oil services and house building, is expected to have a market capitalisation of at least £200m. It would be the largest new issue from the private sector since the flotation of Reuters earlier this month.

Christian Salvesen made pre-tax profits of £26.2m on sales of £210.8m in the year to last March. The largest contribution came from its food distribution division.

The group is the biggest cold store operator in the UK, with a national network of 16 depots and a fleet of 500 refrigerated lorries. Overseas, it runs cold stores in the U.S., Belgium, France and the Netherlands.

Its house-building company completed 2,335 homes last year, and it has interests in North Sea oil services, hire and sale of diesel generators and in shipping. — all is a far cry from the great fleet of whaling ships on which the company founded its fortune.

He says the character of the modern company was formed in its whaling years. "We have a

very close relationship with all our people which goes back to when we knew almost every chap on our whaling ships."

However, the sharp reduction in the world's whale stocks drove Christian Salvesen to sell off its fleet, mainly to the Japanese, and invest its money elsewhere in the 1950s and 1960s.

The main steps in its diversification took the company into deep-sea fishing—including one of the earliest freeze-at-sea factory fleets—fish processing and distribution and the construction of its first cold store on the dockside at Grimsby.

From this base, Christian

Salvesen moved into the rapidly-expanding market for frozen and chilled food, supplying customers such as J. Sainsbury and Marks and Spencer. It also invested in food processing and packing factories, and then applied its experience abroad.

However, logical this diversification looks in retrospect, it was anything but straightforward to carry out. Along the way, Christian Salvesen has been forced by heavy losses to pull out of deep-sea fishing and to cut back its fish processing businesses. It failed in a fresh food distribution venture and a North Sea oil drilling ship proved unprofitable.

It is a pressure from shareholders wanting to create a market in its shares which is bringing the company to the Stock Exchange. About three-quarters of the 1,000 shareholders members of the founder family, the rest employees of a few institutions, including the Church of Scotland, which received its stake in a Salvesen bequest.

The company hopes to raise a modest amount of money for its own needs, but the future may be earmarked for any particular use.

Mr Elliot does not expect Christian Salvesen to become an acquisitive business. With the exception of its U.S. cold store company and diesel general operation, it has made very few acquisitions. Mr Elliot says: "We have built up our business ourselves. We prefer internal growth to acquisition."

ECONOMIC DIARY

TODAY: Conservative government conference, local Fiscal Studies conference on cuts and jobs, Regent Place Hotel, W1. Gatti council session opens, Geneva. Hong Kong French cantonal elections, first round.

TUESDAY: February provisional figures for retail sales, and for producer price index numbers. Fourth quarter food facts. EEC Finance Council meets, Brussels. UN conference on emergency aid to Africa, Geneva. EEC Agriculture Ministers start two-day meeting, Brussels. European Parliament session opens, Strasbourg (to March 15). Nato briefing on U.S.-Soviet arms talks, Brussels. Mr Spyros Kyriakou, Cypriot President, meets Sr Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN Secretary-General, Geneva. Bank for International Settlements starts two-day meeting, Basle. OECD export credits meeting, Paris. Sir Michael Edwards, Dunlop chairman, makes financial statement to shareholders.

THURSDAY: February provisional figures for retail sales, and for producer price index numbers. Fourth quarter food facts. EEC Finance Council meets, Brussels. UN conference on emergency aid to Africa, Geneva. EEC Agriculture Ministers start two-day meeting, Brussels. European Parliament session opens, Strasbourg (to March 15). Nato briefing on U.S.-Soviet arms talks, Brussels. Mr Spyros Kyriakou, Cypriot President, meets Sr Javier Perez de Cuellar, UN Secretary-General, Geneva. Bank for International Settlements starts two-day meeting, Basle. OECD export credits meeting, Paris. Sir Michael Edwards, Dunlop chairman, makes financial statement to shareholders.

FRIDAY: Fourth quarter figures for construction output. Friday figures for usable production. EEC Energy Ministers meet in Brussels.

Science research spending rises

RESEARCH and development on science and technology accounted for an estimated 1.9 per cent of Trade and Industry Department's expenditure in 1984-85. According to departmental statistics, this figure with 21.3 per cent in 1983-84, 12 per cent in 1982-83, 6.2 per cent in 1981-82, 1980-81, and 6.3 per cent in 1979-80.

BA chief optimistic over Laker case

BY DUNCAN CAMPBELL-SMITH

LORD KING, the chairman of British Airways, yesterday appeared optimistic over the airline's continuing efforts to extricate itself from its legal difficulties in the US.

He said: "One or two points" still needed to be negotiated regarding the airline's pursuit of an out-of-court settlement to the \$1.05bn (£985m) suit brought against BA and 12 others by Mr Christopher Morris, the liquidator of Laker Airways. Lord King thought the remaining differences between the parties "should be tidied up in the next few weeks."

Lord King was speaking

during a visit to Hong Kong as a member of Lord Young's trade delegation to China.

The BA chairman's reassuring confidence contrasted with the apparent despondency of the airline's senior management last week, when clear signals were given that BA's talks with the Export-Import Bank (Exim) of the U.S.—crucial to any Laker settlement—had reached an impasse.

Neither BA nor Exim would comment on the content of their discussions this week.

Mr Marshall yesterday morning left London for Washington on his third Concorde flight over the Atlantic in four days.

Lord King was speaking

"It's doing a lot for our load on the North Atlantic, but the yield is not very good," said the airline. Neither BA nor Exim would comment at all on the content of their intense discussions this week.

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Lord King was speaking

Bitter exchanges in the licence fee feud

Raymond Snoddy looks at the BBC's quest for more revenue

through increased efficiency, while maintaining the range and quality of existing services."

The BBC argued that the economies identified were "at the margin." To Peat Marwick, the BBC's need to strengthen accountability, make better use of management information, and exert more pressure to achieve results.

Just as the ripples from the Value for Money report were starting to fade, stories started appearing yesterday from the lobby system in the House of Commons that the BBC would be required to take advertising to "raise the money it desperately needs."

The truth seems to be, at least for the moment, less dramatic.

No decision has been taken on the amount of the licence fee or on what period it should run for. The BBC wants £25 for the next three years. Over the past year, Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, said he favoured a licence fee to be maintained for three years because it encouraged efficient planning and use of resources.

Now the Home Office will be committed to a specific period, emphasising merely that it is likely to be "longer rather than shorter."

However, it looks increasingly as though a licence fee settlement will be accompanied by an inquiry into the financing of broadcasting. This would be held before the next licence fee round.

Expectations of an inquiry are high among Conservative backbenchers and would be an important safety valve if the licence fee settlement turned out to be higher than some of the right expect.

The Home Office has been looking at various options in case an inquiry is asked for. The main option at the moment is an inquiry into British broadcasting as a whole. There is a strong argument that issues such as advertising on the BBC cannot be looked at in isolation.

Reports that the Government will give the BBC an interim one year increase pending an inquiry ignore the future effects of direct broadcasting by satellite.

Britain faces problems over DBS at a time when the French are pushing ahead with their plans. The first French DBS satellite could be covering most of Britain with five channels of programmes—some possibly in English—by the autumn of 1986.

Robin Returns



Once again peril stalks the Greenwood. Robin's men stand alone against forces more sinister than they know...

ROBIN OF SHERWOOD

This much praised series returns to the ITV screen. Michael Praed, Nickolas Grace, Judi Trott, Anthony Valentine, Oliver Tobias, John Nettles, Gemma Craven and Rula Lenska head an outstanding cast.

Filmed on location. Produced by Paul Knight. Directed by Robert Young, James Allen and Alex Kirby. Executive Producer, Patrick Dromgoole.

TONIGHT ON ITV

ANOTHER EXCEPTIONAL DRAMA FROM HTV

Rates revolt set to enter more complex phase

BY ROBIN PAULEY

THE GOVERNMENT has overcome the first big threat to its rate-capping proposals only to face a larger and potentially more complex revolt.

Three of the four rate-capped upper-tier councils which are legally required to set a rate for 1985-86 by tomorrow complied with the Pw on Thursday. They are Merside, South Yorkshire and the Inner London Education Authority.

The fourth, the Greater London Council, delayed its budgetary meeting until yesterday and a final decision may not be taken until tomorrow evening shortly before the midnight deadline.

It was always regarded as the more likely to defy the law and once it had complied, defiance by the GLC seemed unlikely, although not impossible.

By their lengthy and vigorous defiance followed by retreat at the last minute, the councils boxed themselves into a position where Mr Patrick Jenkins, Environment Secretary, appeared to have won by default.

Decision denied on nuclear tip

By IAN OWEN

MR WILLIAM Waldergrave, a junior Environment minister, assured the Commons yesterday that the Government had taken no "secret decision" on the choice of a site for disposing of nuclear waste.

He was replying to a debate in which Bedfordshire MPs underlined the concern aroused by the earlier announcement that the site in their county at Euston is one of three to be investigated for the shallow burial of short-lived intermediate and low-level waste.

BCal retains cheap fare

BY MICHAEL DONNE, AEROSPACE CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH CALEDONIAN, the independent airline, will continue to sell its cheap tickets from Gatwick to Frankfurt, in spite of the West German government rejecting them for passengers originating in Germany.

Under its Time Flyer scheme for cheap fares, BCal is offering rates between £84 and £124 return, according to time of travel. The cheapest comparable return rate out of Frankfurt is DM 496 (£137) return.

Under the Anglo-German air

agreement which lets airlines offer cheap fares, BCal can offer such rates from the UK, but needs West German approval to offer them from Frankfurt. This has been refused.

• BCal has leased a Boeing 747 "Combi" Jumbo jet, providing both passenger and cargo capacity, from Alitalia of Jordan, for its Gatwick-New York route starting on May 1. The aircraft will carry up to 250 passengers and 40 tonnes of cargo.

Bridget Bloom on the reasons for a £1m research contract

Ferranti sets course for laser gyro system

MR PHILIP ATTERTON, managing director of Ferranti Defence Systems, has just helped his company win a contract from the Defence Ministry. Which in some ways he would rather not have.

The firm's contract is for developing a gyro which depends on lasers rather than conventional mechanical techniques to produce its answers on an aircraft's position. In line with the Government's competition policy in defence contracting, British Aerospace's division at Bracknell (formerly the Sperry Company) has been awarded a similar sum for analogous development work.

Mr Atterton says wryly that Ferranti has to develop the gyro or risk going out of the inertial systems business it has been in since 1943. His reluctance arises because the wide range of conventional gimbal-mounted gyros Ferranti makes for virtually all Britain's military aircraft work perfectly well: the only clear advantage the ring laser gyros look like having is easier maintenance, with longer life cycle costs.

On present showing the laser based systems will not be cheaper, more reliable or more accurate. And in Britain at least, the only obvious market

for the system is the future European fighter aircraft which is the subject of pre-drawing board wrangles between the aerospace industries of Britain, France, Italy, West Germany and Spain.

It is relatively unusual in the defence world for a revolutionary technique, such as ring lasers, to produce such a comparatively evolutionary change—although it is certainly not the only case in that world where companies or governments feel they have to follow where scientific discovery leads, in spite of there being no immediate or obvious cost effective advantage.

For the time being, however, the comparatively small advantage which looks like following from ring laser gyros is matched by the small sums and relatively low effort needed to keep the programme going.

For the Defence Ministry, which will have invested less than £5m, including the latest contracts, the sums are seen as a seed corn for future harvest.

For the companies, the need to remain up with and ahead of the game if possible is vital.

The company's work on ring laser gyros started seven years ago, partly as a result of the

Boeing 757 and 767 airliners and as far as Ferranti is concerned, neither Mr Atterton nor his colleagues are in the fuddy-duddy all's-well-with-the-world-as-it-is mould. No one forgets the lesson of the Swiss watch maker who said that digits would never catch on.

Inertial navigation systems (INS) account for about a quarter of Ferranti Defence Systems' £170m annual business. Compared with it BAE is a novice. The company's big coup involved supplying gyro systems to all 309 Tornado combat aircraft being ordered by the RAF, the Luftwaffe and the Italian air force. But the company also supplies INS for the Harrier jump jet, the Buccaneer, Jaguar and the Nimrod in both the maritime reconnaissance and the airborne early warning versions.

From its original second world war work on gunsights and other aiming devices, Ferranti now boasts INS sales covering all 12 European satellite space launchers, survey and navigation work for the army and underwater surveying for the oil industry.

The company's work on ring

laser gyros started seven years ago, partly as a result of the

The English and New York Trust plc

Highlights of the year (ended 31st December 1984)

Dividend per share 250p + 8.7%
Net asset value per share 115.4p + 10.7%
Total assets £94,099,923

For East (excl Japan) 2.7%
Other Countries 1.4%
Europe 6.6%
Japan 11.1%
UK 31.1%

North America 47.3%
Geographical Distribution of Investments

For East (excl Japan) 2.7%
Other Countries 1.4%
Europe 6.6%
Japan 11.1%
UK 31.1%

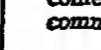
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TUC organisation study approved

BY PHILIP BASSETT, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

TRADE UNION leaders yesterday endorsed a fresh attempt by the TUC to improve unions' organisation and recruitment, including a warning that the outlook for British unions, though not necessarily pessimistic, is difficult.

A conference of senior union officials—part of the TUC strategy exercise launched last year to examine the unions' role—recognised the value of the TUC continuing to work constructively in this area in the face of considerable continued challenges to the union movement.

Union leaders approved a far-reaching document on union organisation, the first sustained examination by the unions of this area since the strategy document was itself published a year ago.

Much of the internal document raises key questions for unions to consider. However its critical look at union membership and organisation falls into four broad areas:

• Union organisation in the recession. The outlook for unions is difficult, the study says. Areas in which they have traditionally been strong, such

as manufacturing and male manual workers, are likely to continue their decline. Areas where they have been weak—non-manuals, women, part-time workers, smaller establishments, the service sector—are likely to continue expanding.

• Individual union responses.

The TUC, for the first time, argues strongly for a complete change in the balance of work in unions to give greater emphasis to recruitment; a "central task" for unions is to set clear organisational aspects to respond to changing employment environments.

It recognises potential problems as serious, although it is a rule that existing members are understandably more concerned about the services they receive now from their union while activists are often more concerned about issues of union policy or promoting changes in structure.

The document endorses the view, promoted by the Government in its Trade Union Act 1984, for membership recording systems. To note quickly any significant changes in membership to which unions should respond. For this, computers

would be a help.

• Possible areas for union expansion. Perhaps the most controversial section of the TUC's document is the organisation of so-called "sunrise" high-technology industries, covering workers "who do not immediately perceive the values or appeal of trade unionism."

• Role of the TUC. The paper accepts that traditionally, the TUC's involvement in union organisation has been limited. It suggests the TUC should carry on with its present work in this field, such as minimising inter-union disputes, training, providing information and running campaigns.

However, it says unions must now consider the question of whether the TUC can expand its role into such areas as regular reviewing of employment trends and their implications for union organisation, as well as providing general help with recruitment.

Overall, the paper argues for unions to adopt flexible strategies to allow them to adapt to the changing economic climate, to show a willingness to examine critically their existing recruitment methods and to consider "whether the appeal of trade unionism is sensitive to the needs and aspirations of different categories of existing and potential members."

Other areas of expansion include the self-employed, women workers, ethnic minority groups and young people.

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S. Wales NUM seeks money back

By Raymond Hughes,
Law Courts Correspondent

THE SOUTH WALES area of the National Union of Mineworkers yesterday asked a High Court judge to end the sequestration that has frozen area funds.

The union will, however, have to wait until Monday to learn whether Mr Justice Scott will agree that it has purged its contempt of court that led to £50,000 in fines and the sequestration.

The days of trade-unionism by conscription were over, he said. The way for union leaders to retain the loyalty of their members was to listen to their views and serve their interests.

The judge adjourned the case until Monday after being told by counsel for the sequestrators that there were matters they wished to draw to his attention.

Those matters, said Mr Howard Page, "might have a bearing either on the terms on which the sequestration should be discharged, or on what you should regard as sufficient action by the union to purge its contempt."

The fines and sequestration resulted from the South Wales area's disobedience of an order made last April to stop interfering with the lorries of two Gloucestershire haulage companies—Richard Read (Transport) and George M. Read—carrying coke from the Port Talbot works of the British Steel Corporation.

The sequestrators seized £705,988 of the area's funds, out of which the fines were paid. The balance of the assets had remained frozen.

Yesterday Mr Jeremy Mullen, for the South Wales NUM, said the union wanted to get back to business and get its money back.

Earlier yesterday South Wales had failed to get the immediate lifting of an injunction made last month restricting to six the number of pickets permitted at five collieries in South Wales. Mr Justice Scott adjourned the case for two weeks.

• New Scotland Yard yesterday announced the closure of its National Reporting Centre, which co-ordinated police deployment throughout the miners' strike. It will be reopened in the event of a similar national crisis.

The union is to begin immediate action against Leiston-controlled Newcastle upon Tyne council, which decided earlier this week to deduct £2 from teachers each time they refused to cover for an absent colleague.

Mr Doug McAvoy, the NUT's deputy general secretary, said: "Authorities are trying to int-

Ballot backs newspaper dispute

BY DAVID GOODHART, LABOUR STAFF

THE NATIONAL Graphical Association's dispute with the Wolverhampton Express and Star over new technology and collective bargaining rights has been overwhelmingly backed by 154 votes to 33 in a secret ballot of its members.

However, the dispute has now spilled over into the rest of the provincial press following the union's decision to withdraw, at least temporarily, from the annual pay talks with the Newspaper Society.

The union believes by not pressing the Express and Star to stick to the national disputes procedure, the NS has deliberately undermined its own agreements.

Senior NS officials responded

by claiming that before the dispute had even begun the NGA had indirectly broken with the moment." Talks with the conciliation service Acas took place yesterday and are expected to continue next week.

Mr Dobbins rejected a suggestion that the whole new agreement be re-negotiated, saying it was like "having your house burgled and then entering into negotiations with the burglar about what he is going to let you have back."

NGA members were suspended when they refused to co-operate with the company's move to single-key slotting in the classified advertisement department.

Postal workers warn of 'serious trouble'

BY DAVID GOODHART, LABOUR STAFF

THERE IS a serious possibility of widespread industrial action in the Post Office next month, according to Mr Alan Tuffin, general secretary of the Union of Communication Workers, the corporation's main union.

Speaking on the BBC's World at One radio programme, he said: "There will be real trouble," if the management carries out its threat to unilaterally implement new working practices.

In spite of the rejection of some key parts of the Post Office's reform proposals by a special union conference, there will be further talks next week between senior UCW officials and the Post Office.

Both sides however, have little room to manoeuvre. The

union had accepted a court order won by the company last week, insisting on a ballot of the terms of the 1984 Trade Union Act.

The other area where compromise was rejected—the question of a mandatory productivity scheme—is more open to compromise.

On new technology the conference did give the union executive the flexibility it was seeking.

Teachers to sue over pay docking

BY DAVID BRINDLE, LABOUR STAFF

THE National Union of Teachers' national executive decided yesterday to take legal action against local authorities carrying out threats to dock the pay of teachers taking disruptive sanctions.

The union is to begin immediate action against Leiston-controlled Newcastle upon Tyne council, which decided earlier this week to deduct £2 from teachers each time they refused to cover for an absent colleague.

A court action will prove an important test of the NUT's belief that its national sanctions affect only voluntary duties, as opposed to the employers' view that the duties concerned are contractual.

The NUT said yesterday that leading counsel had advised that any pay docking could be challenged in court. However, employers' leaders have received advice that conflicts with this and claim clear precedents in law, though not specifically in the field of teaching.

The teachers' unions yesterday accepted an invitation by the conciliation service Acas, to discuss the continuing pay dispute in England and Wales, while cautioning that their interest remained purely the prospect of resuming full talks with the employers.

Council staff seek flat-rate £15 a week rise

By Our Labour Staff

UNION LEADERS yesterday submitted a nine-month pay claim for a flat-rate £15 weekly increase on behalf of about 630,000 local government white-collar workers.

The claim is due for settlement on July 1 but the unions want to bring forward the operative date in 1985 to April 1 to bring them in line with other public sector groups. The policy of the TUC is for a common public sector settlement date.

According to the unions, about 25 per cent of their members earn basic pay below £100 a week and 35 per cent are below £150 a week.

The main aim of the claim is to win a £15 minimum for staff at the top of the local government Scale 1. There is also a demand for a minimum of just over £100 a week for all 18-year-olds.

THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

Holding its breath till Budget

Harrods' lats sale

THE MINERS' strike officially ended this week. But the equity market had written off the strike long ago so it was not surprising that the sight of columns of miners walking back to the pits had little impact on share prices. On Monday the FT 30-Share Index rose 4.9 points, which is neither here nor there for an index close to 1,000.

The corporate reporting season meantime, has got into full swing following the traditional starting point of ICI's full year results last week. The financial sector dominated the scene with the "Big Four" clearing all reporting 1984 results and three major composite insurance groups showing some very poor figures.

But if the analysts were kept late at their desks crunching the numbers the dealers on the trading floor had a relatively quiet week. The market generally has been subdued with the odd burst of activity around bids and the occasional rumour. Yet a dull market ahead of the Budget is the norm anyway.

On the currencies and interest rate front the markets were treated to what became the same old story. After the setback in the middle of last week the dollar remained relatively strong till Wednesday when there was a sharp downward revision following another testimony by Mr Paul Volcker to Congress. His views triggered a fall on the day but since then the currency has regained its composure and looks set to flex its muscles again.

MARKET HIGHLIGHTS OF THE WEEK

	Price y'day	Change, on week	1984/5 High	1984/5 Low	
FT 30 Ord. Index	988.1	+13.1	1,024.5	755.3	Good corporate profits
BAT Inds.	362	+27	386	175	Big trade in U.S. markets
Beecham	345	+18	390	285	Broker's re-rating
Birmid Qualcast	90	+7½	108	49	Bid speculation
BP	557	+32	575	395	Excellent results
British Telecom	130	+11	134½	88	Persistent institutional support
Burnett & Halesham	50	-20	205	50	Worries about financial sit'n.
Calendonian Offshore	380	+60	380	185	
Goods Durrant & Murray	80	+10	83	42	Awaiting bid developments
Group Lotus Car	118	+27	118	54	Chrysler link speculation
Highland Electronics	121	+14	121	44	Investment recommendation
Highland Participants	239	+56	244	94	Expln. hopes/share placement
House of Fraser	402	+56	415	228	Al-Fayed bid of 400p per share
Invent Energy	900	+110	920	280	Exploration hopes
Jackson (J. & H.B.)	105	+21	110	50	Bid from Williams Hedges
Lex Service	200	-30	435	194	U.S. electronics div. problems
Ransomes Sims	610	+45	650	260	Bumper results/cap. proposals
Royal Bank of Scotland	258	+18	266	180	Rumours of stake build-up
Turiff Corp.	200	-62	345	188	Profits warning
Unilever	1,724	+7	1,724	835	Better-than-expected results

PRIVATE INVESTORS are as willing as ever to put their money into companies floated on the Over-the-Counter Market.

That is one of the conclusions of a new survey of the OTC published this week by accountants Spicer and Pegler. It says that of the 140 companies on the OTC to the end of last October, 110 had been floated in the previous two years.

Private investors have put up the bulk of the capital for these companies—the financial institutions have mostly stayed away, if only because few OTC companies are large enough to accommodate big shareholders.

As Spicer and Pegler point out, the attraction of the OTC is the chance to invest in young "high risk companies" which can grow very quickly if they turn out to be successful.

But are the risks in backing OTC companies worth taking? Clearly, many of the potential dangers of investing in small, young companies are the same whether the shares are quoted on the OTC or the USM.

Indeed, the OTC often can appear to be the more attractive market-place because OTC investments generally qualify for tax relief under the Business Expansion Scheme, under which individuals may deduct the price paid for their shares

Risks on the OTC

from their total taxable income so long as they hold on to the shares for five years. Despite Stock Exchange representations to the Treasury, USM investors are denied this incentive, which improves the odds in backing a high-risk venture.

Critics of the OTC argue, however, that the merits of individual companies are overshadowed by the disadvantages inherent in the OTC market.

They claim that since the OTC is outside the control of the Stock Exchange and has no overall regulatory body of its own, the checks on the quality of companies and on the activities of the dealers cannot be as good as on the USM.

Isabel Unsworth, who follows the USM for broker Grieveson Grant, says the best answer would be to bring the OTC under the wing of the Stock Exchange to create a regulated tertiary market.

But OTC traders generally say the last thing they want is to be controlled by a stock exchange—which is, in any case, moving towards liberalisation.

Unlisted Securities Market

ing the activities of its own members.

Moreover, they say that their own regulatory bodies are adequate. Four dealers belong to the British Institute of Dealers in Securities (Bids), and another four to the National Association of Security Dealers and Investment Managers (Nasdim).

Spicer and Pegler's view is that a stronger regulatory body is needed: "There is controversy over the practices of dealers and, in particular, there exists some real concern that the markets cannot develop properly in the absence of overall guidance from a regulatory body."

The accountants also have the doubts many investors have about the liquidity of the OTC market in many shares. One dealer, Granville and Company, makes a market in matched bargains only—that is, shares are traded only when buyers and sellers can be matched directly.

Other OTC dealers hold their own lines of stock in an attempt to create liquid markets. Most OTC stocks are quoted by a single dealer, though a few are dealt in by up to four market-makers.

The stock shortages are so great that about 10 per cent of shares are quoted "basis"—a hypothetical price the dealer would offer if any stock was available.

The problem is not that there is an absolute shortage of stock in the market—Spicer and Pegler estimate that about 25 of the 30 companies to come to the OTC in the year to last October offered at least 31 per cent of their equity—proportion that compares favourably with the USM average of 34 per cent.

The difficulty, however, is that investors tend to lock their stock away—particularly in the case of issues qualifying for BES tax concessions.

Investors who back OTC companies have then significantly less opportunity than on the USM to realise their profits quickly.

This may not be a worry in a bull market; but if the stock market starts to fall, OTC investors may find it very difficult to sell.

Stefan Wagstyl

Gartmore's Investment Action Report on Europe

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which have outpaced the market by an eighth over the last three months, clinched a further £1 on the news to 123.50.

This year a great deal will depend upon the battle for supremacy in the U.S. detergents market. Procter and Gamble and Lever Brothers are locked in combat in the heavy-duty end of the American detergents sector. P and G's Liquid Tide is grabbing market share—though at some cost to its older Tide product—but Lever is stoutly defending Wisk to the point that it too is taking market share. The cost of the promotional drive, however, is seriously denting U.S. profits while new product launches—equally expensive exercises—are bound to further erode dollar earnings.

The other factor which could upset earnings in the early months of 1985 is the EEC's decision to distribute subsidised butter and that will do no good at all to the edible fats division. So the inclusion of Brooke Bond this year for 15 months (no contribution was made to the 1984 figures) could be vital in keeping up the momentum at the profit line. Just suppose Royal underwriters £23m worth of business in a couple of years time. If it could reduce its rate of losses from 15p to, say, 5p then underwriting losses could be down to £23m with investment income running at perhaps £500m. Profits on that basis could come out at £37.5m. That, most certainly, is not intended to be a forecast but the numbers give some dimension to the possibilities if underwriting losses can be curtailed.

With the prospect of good profits for 1985 it is not surprising that investors are sitting on their composite share certificates, especially as the stocks are returning good yields. And there is always the thought of a major bid in the sector to add a little spice.

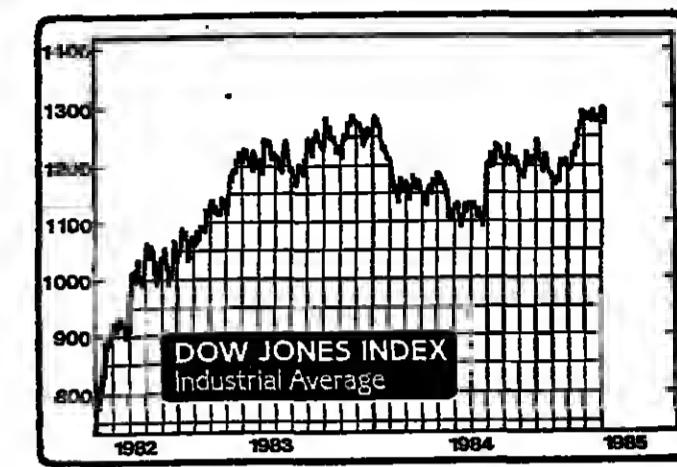
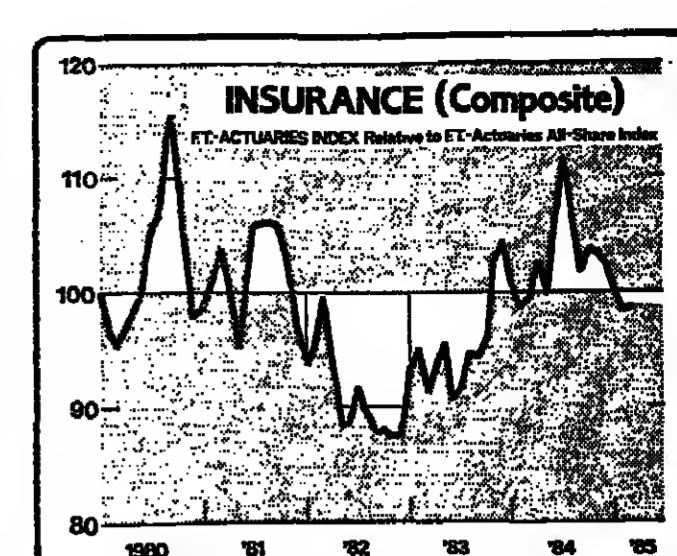
Both Eagle Star and Phoenix have lost their independence in recent history and there is no reason to assume that other predators are not eyeing up the sector. Perhaps CU deserves to be taken over though it would take someone with a great deal of confidence in his own ability to take on that company. Allianz would like a UK presence, though that might well take the shape of a substantial share stake rather than an outright takeover. One final thought is that U.S. insurance groups might scan the UK scene once their own market perks up and they have the advantage of dollar buying power.

Unilever at £924m

The market has been viewing Unilever in a fresh light since the £339m takeover of Brooke Bond last October. The acquisition provided a catalyst for a reappraisal of the more vigorous management style evolving within the Anglo-Dutch group. But even so, few in the City bad realised how fast Unilever was running at the tail-end of last year.

Apart from the better rates on U.S. commercial lines the USM figures are also improving and rates on household structure business (basically the insurance pmt through the building societies) are climbing. The upturn became apparent towards the end of 1984 and has most

less expectations. The shares,



the balance sheet weakened. The tax changes have taken £570m of deferred tax out of retained earnings and shareholders' funds have shrunk by £242m. NatWest's free capital ratio is now down to 4.5 per cent.

Barclays' answer to its weakening results season for the four English clearers has been compressed into the past week with Lloyds completing the picture yesterday. Overall there were no nasty shocks for the market to endure which perhaps says more about the way the banks handle their investor relations in the City these days than the figures themselves.

National Westminster has been viewing Unilever in a fresh light since the £339m takeover of Brooke Bond last October. The acquisition provided a catalyst for a reappraisal of the more vigorous management style evolving within the Anglo-Dutch group. But even so, few in the City bad realised how fast Unilever was running at the tail-end of last year.

After Barclays' announcement the shares only fell 7p to 53p on the day despite a set of profits which failed to live up to expectations. Pre-tax the group rose from £57m to £65m but that was £20m or so shy of expectations.

Still at least the figures are heading the right way which is a darn sight more than can be said for Midland. The banking

Terry Garrett

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SUNDAY TELEGRAPH 30.12.84

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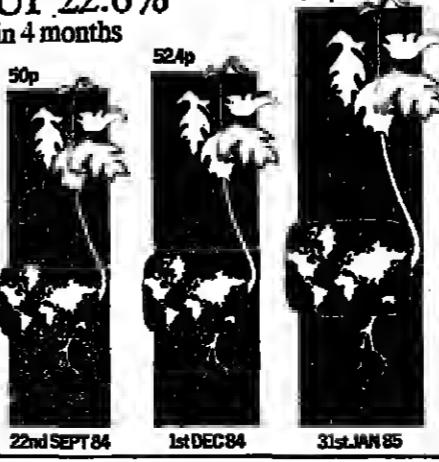
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THE WEEK IN THE MARKETS

The trouble over triskaidekaphobia

NEW YORK

WILLIAM HALL

U.S. SHARE prices marched ahead in January, marked time in February and began the month in fine form with the Dow Jones Industrial Average hitting a new peak of 1,299.36, a week ago yesterday.

The Dow Jones industrial average ended the second month of 1985 showing a net gain of around 90 points on the year to date. The New York Stock Exchange composite index, which tracks all the shares on the big board, finished February showing a 10 per cent rise on the year and the Nasdaq over-the-counter market was up by 16 per cent.

This week, U.S. share prices have been shedding some of their earlier gains as profit taking has set in. The more superstitious punters in the market have been blaming it all on triskaidekaphobia—fear of the number 13. The Dow Jones Industrial Average has popped above the 1,300 level on several occasions but has never managed to close above the magic figure.

Generally, analysts believe that the market will be able to break through the 1,300 level and hold its gains. Merrill Lynch's latest market letter, for example, says that "a rise to the low to mid 1,300s on the Dow Jones average is likely over the near term." After that it expects a "more significant phase of consolidation and correction could follow" but the firm does not expect any serious decline. We think the Dow industrials could reach 1,400 to 1,500 by year end," says the world's biggest brokerage firm.

Wall Street's market watchers take comfort from the fact that while U.S. share prices have not moved ahead over the last six weeks they have at least held their ground in the face of bearish signals from the U.S. credit markets. Since mid-January short-term interest rates have risen by over 100 basis points, pushing the three-month Treasury Bill rate above 8.7 per cent, its highest level so far this year.

The prices of fixed income securities have fallen sharply since the end of January. U.S. Treasury 11½ per cent, due 2014, was trading at close to 97 on

PUTTING your money into mining shares these days is rather like walking through a hall of distorting mirrors. Take the London based Consolidated Gold Fields for example, a company which for some years now has been impressed by some as offering a way to participate in the fortunes of the South African gold mining industry without the political risk attaching to a South African company.

It is not an argument that has impressed me, simply because if ever there should be an awful upheaval in South Africa, the mines that Gold Fields has invested in there would suffer along with the rest. And while the London group has other investments, about 40 per cent of its profits come from South African gold.

The worst aspect of distorting mirrors these days is, of course, the fluctuating exchange rates and Gold Fields has lost on this score in the past six months to December 31. While the U.S. dollar price of gold fell, the weakness of the South African rand resulted in the price in the latter currency rising by 30 per cent to record levels.

The rand also fell against the much maligned value of

MINING NEWS

Walking in the Hall of Mirrors

new investments and is determined to reduce its borrowings; this it hopes to do by a £150m programme of sales of "non-strategic" assets.

Gold Fields is a company of calibre and the shares stand at a discount to assets of 38 per cent. They also offer what is considered a good return of 7 per cent, but whether all this is sufficient to sustain shareholders' patieoce is arguable when no major improvement in fortunes seems likely over the next year or so.

Another "seven percent" is the Afrikaner-controlled General Mining Union Corporation (Gencor) mining and industrial finance group. Unlike Gold Fields, the South African group enjoyed a 24 per cent rise in its gross income last year thanks to a rise in rand revenue from its export sales, notably base and precious metals.

However, Gencor has not emerged unscathed from the

Hall of Mirrors. In this case the group decided earlier last year that because interest rates were so high in South Africa they are around 25 per cent—it would be cheaper to borrow abroad. What Gencor did not realise at the time was that the rand would continue to fall heavily against foreign currencies, notably the U.S. dollar.

This meant that interest rate repayments on the increased loans became far more expensive in terms of rands. In fact, costs under this heading soared to R450.2m (£222m) from R150.5m in 1983. In addition, unrealised currency losses of R77.1m have been deferred for future amortisation, the hope being that the rand will recover.

Gencor also had to pay rising prices in rands for its imports while there were losses of R108.8m at its Tediex electrical good subsidiary and the Kamhy farmgrowing operations.

At the end of the day, Gencor has come out with a 1984

net profit of R288m, or 321 cents per share, against R311m.

The dividend has been maintained at 190 cents and Mr Ted Pavitt, the chairman, hopes that things will be a little better this year when the full exchange rate benefits to export sales should be felt.

The Hall of Mirrors has been kinder in the six months to December 31 to the smaller Anglovaal South African mining and industrial house. Not only did its earnings from mining company investments benefit from the exchange rates but also its industrial companies managed to maintain profits despite tough conditions in the domestic market.

Anglovaal has thus raised its earnings by 51 per cent to R51.2m in the period from R26.9m. It is also reasonably confident about prospects for the full year to June 30 and has increased its interim by 10 cents to 100 cents; the previous year's final was 225 cents.

Things have also been looking up for the Anglo American group's big South African gold share holding company, Anglo American Gold Investments (Angold). In the first half of Angold's year, which runs to February 28, income sagged and the company, which pays out most of its earnings in dividends, was obliged to reduce its interim.

During the second half, however, the benefits of the rise in the South African gold price began to come through and together with a useful increase in interest received, Angold has emerged from the full year with a net profit only slightly lower at R236.1m against R238.5m.

Earnings would have been higher but for the fact that lower dividends were paid by some of the mines with financial years ending in September.

The benefits of the strong rise in the rand gold price in the final quarter of 1984 should thus come through to Angold in the current year. Meanwhile, the final dividend for 1984/85 has been increased to 350 cents to make an unchanged total of 1,025 cents.

Kenneth Marston

A wife's secret and the taxman

I am a housewife at home and until now my husband has paid my tax if any. I have decided to pay my own tax and as I have only about £5,000 capital perhaps this will not apply to me yet. I am due to inherit about £30,000.

Also if I pay tax is my capital confidential between the taxman and me or does my husband become involved?

Is there any way I can avoid paying tax in the future apart from buying National Savings

Certificates which I understand are not declarable?

Ask your husband's tax inspector for the free explanatory pamphlet on separate assessment, IR32. You will see that elections for separate assessment (for income tax and CGT) must be submitted by July 5. Although separate assessment will mean that your husband will no longer know full details of your income and capital gains he will be able to deduce the size of your income and the total of your chargeable gains. Eventually, of course,

provided that it cannot be said that the house is too large for your needs so that it should be sold to enable a smaller house to be bought for you and to free some capital.

Matrimonial home

Just recently our house has been changed from a joint tenancy to "tenancy in common."

We have been divorced for a few years and I would be grateful if you could please advise me of my legal rights (as sitting tenant) should my ex-husband wish to sell the house, or his share of it.

If the house was purchased as a matrimonial home it is probable that your former husband will not be able to force a sale of the house against your will, at least so long as you have no alternative accommodation and

the existing tax discrimination is virtually certain to be abandoned, as argued by the Equal Opportunities Commission, but the present Chancellor appears to be dragging his feet over this reform—in marked contrast to the speed with which he has implemented other more complex changes to longstanding tax principles.

Your elections for separate assessment to income tax (from 1985-86) and capital gains tax (from 1984-85) will continue automatically, until revoked by both of you. However, if you

also wish to stop your CGT losses being set against your husband's gains, you will have to give separate notice every year, before July 6, under section 4 (2) of the Capital Gains Tax Act 1979. Your husband will have to give similar notices, every year, if he wishes to stop his losses being set against your gains.

Interest on an ordinary account with the National Savings Bank is exempt from tax up to £70 in each tax year (subject to what the Chancellor may say on March 19).

Am I correct in believing that the house is too large for your needs so that it should be sold to enable a smaller house to be bought for you and to free some capital?

I have been left a share in the house in which I am living, and I wish to buy out the other beneficiaries who have no interest in residence. The house is in urgent need of extensive major repairs, which I would willingly undertake.

A year has elapsed, however, since the death of the testator, and the executors have failed to prove the will.

for the past 12 years. I am married to a British subject, and we have two children. This past year, my mother died in the U.S. and left me an inheritance, paid to me without any U.S. taxes deducted. Some of this money, having earned interest during my mother's life (i.e. deferred annuities), would be subject to U.S. income taxes. If I was a U.S. taxpayer, and have been for the past decade, I have had no other earnings in the United States. Should this money now be assessed retrospectively for U.S. income tax liability, or am I liable only to report this inheritance to the Inland Revenue. I get a different answer from everyone

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BUILDING SOCIETY RATES

	Share	Sub/pn	u/c/s	shares	Others
Abbey, National	7.50	8.50	8.75	Seven-day account	
			9.25	Higher interest acc.	90 day's notice or charge
			6.25-8.75	Cheque-Save	
Add to Thrift	9.60	—	8.75	Easy withdrawal, no penalty	
Alliance	7.50	8.50	8.75	7 days' notice. Immed. wdif. if balance £2,500+	Int pd. 4-yrly., min. inc. opt. if bal. £1,000+
Anglia	7.50	8.50	9.25	Bank save. Balance of £2,500. Current account	
Barnsley	7.50	9.25	9.25	3-year bond. No notice, 1 month's penalty	
Bradford and Bingley	7.50	8.50	9.00	Capital share. No notice, 1 month's penalty	
Bristol and West	7.50	8.50	9.25	7 days' notice. No interest penalty	
Britannia	7.50	8.50	8.90	Special investment share/monthly income share	
Cardiff	9.00	9.10	9.50	Special investment share/monthly income share	
Catholic	7.50	8.80	9.30	Extra share. Interest monthly. Maximum 9.78	
Century (Edinburgh)	8.25	—	9.30	Permaneot 3/3 years or variable	
Chester	7.50	8.50	9.75	Immed. withdrawl. int. pen. or 3 months' notice	
Cheltenham and Gloucester	—	8.50	Gold. No not. No pen. Under £1,000. 7.50; Over, 9.00; £50,000+ 9.25 £1,000+, 7-day notice Triple Bonus. Also Monthly Income		
Citizens Regency	7.75	9.00	9.15	7 days' notice. 9.15-28 days' notice	
City of London (The)	7.75	9.00	9.50	3 months' notice—no penalty—monthly income	
Coventry	7.50	8.75	9.75	2-year boot £1,000+, close 90 days notice and penalty, monthly int. pen. or 3 months' notice	
Derbyshire	7.50	8.75	9.50	Moneymaking. Int. pen. 9.45 £20,000+, 9.20 £5,000+, 9.20 £50,000+ 9.25 £1,000+, monthly inc. opt.	
Gateway	7.50	8.50	9.00	2 yrs. 3 m. not with pen. 8.75 m. int./pa. m. inc.	
Greenwich	7.50	—	9.50	7-day Xtra. 7 days' notice, no penalty	
Guardian	7.15	—	8.85	7-day Xtra. 3 months, £1,000 minimum	
Hallifax	7.50	8.50	8.75	7-day Xtra. 28 days' notice, no penalty	
Heart of England	7.50	8.75	9.25	90 days' notice, no penalty	
Hemel Hempstead	7.50	9.00	9.75	90 days. 9.75 28 days	
Hendon	8.00	—	9.50	7-day account, minimum £500	
Lambeth	7.65	8.75	9.20	7-d. s/c. 9.20 Magnum a/c 6 wks. + loss of int.	
Leamington Spa	7.60	—	9.10	Spa mthly. income, no not. no pen. £5,000 min.	
Leeds and Holbeck	7.50	8.25	9.25	High flyer. no notice, no penalty. £10,000 min.	
Leeds Permanent	7.50	8.50	9.50	Supershares. no not. 14 days' pen. £2,000 min.	
Leicester	7.50	8.50	9.25	APEX (+2% std. 3 yrs.) int. pen. 60 days' pen.	
Lodoo Permanent	8.00	—	9.25	50 days' notice/no pen. int. bal. size £10,000+	
Midschires	7.50	—	9.50	28 days' notice/no pen. int. as above	
Mornington	*8.30	7.80	9.03	22K. 9.25 £2K+. 9.5 £20K+. 9.22K+	
National Counties	17.20	8.80	9.20	90 days' notice, no penalty. +1.00% pen.	
National and Provincial	7.50	8.50	9.50	90 days' notice/no pen. int. bal. size £10,000+	
Nationwide	7.50	8.50	9.25	28 days' notice/no pen. int. as above	
Newcastle	7.50	8.75	9.25	Capital bonds, 3 yrs., 90 days' notice/no pen.	
Northern Rock	7.50	8.75	9.25	Super bonds, 7 days' notice/no pen.	
Norwich	7.50	8.75	9.05	7-day notice, 28 days' notice	
Peecham	8.25	—	9.25	7-day share, monthly income option	
Peterborough	7.50	8.50	9.50	Flexi-plus 60 days' notice monthly income	
Portman	7.50	9.25	9.10	Flexi-plus. Minimum £500. No notice imm. wdif.	
Portsmouth	7.65	8.15	9.25	Prev. Min. £500. 2 months' notice. No penalty	
Property Owners	8.00	9.50	9.80	3 mths. 9.80 6 mths. 9.35 28 days. 9.25 7 days	
Scarborough	7.50	8.75	9.25	2-yr. limited share. 1.75 guaranteed differential	
Skipton	7.50	8.75	9.70	Sovereign £10,000-£9,999. Monthly inc. 9.35 min. inv. £2,500. Inst. access no pen.	
Stroud	7.50	8.75	9.30	9.25 9.1 1 m. 9.05 10,000+, no pen, no not.	
Sussex County	7.50	9.00	8.80	7 days. 9.10 Sussex high. 9.40 90 days	
Sussex Mutual	7.75	9.00	9.15	Over £5,000. imm. wdif. Under £5,000. 7 d. not.	
Thrift	7.60	—	8.60	3-year term. Other accounts available	
Town and Country	7.50	8.50	9.50	9.25 9.0 d. not. or pen. No not./pen. if bal. £10,000+	
Wessex	9.25	—	9.00	No notice—no penalties—minimum invest. £1	
Woolwich	7.50	—	9.00	Prime—no notice, no penalty, minimum £500	
Yorkshire	7.50	8.50	9.25	Monthly increase shares. 28 days' notice	
			9.25 Capital, 90 days' notice/no pen.		
			9.25 Diamond key, 28 days' notice or 60 days' pen.		

All these rates are after basic rate tax liability has been settled on behalf of the investor.

TOMORROW'S WORLD



TODAY'S MOST EXCITING INVESTMENT

From communications satellites to programmable washing machines, from word processors to industrial robots, new technology is having a profound impact on the way we live and work.

At Save & Prosper we spotted the exciting investment potential of high technology companies at an early stage. And in June 1981 we launched our New Technology Fund to provide investors with an international spread of holdings in technology companies likely to achieve rapid growth.

In under four years this Fund has established itself as one of the top performing funds of its kind, the unit offer price increasing by 139.4% to 26th February 1985.

Today we believe there is great scope for growth from new technology companies.

Excellent prospects worldwide

The bulk of the portfolio is invested in those countries in the forefront of technological advance - currently USA (40%), Japan (35%) and the UK (25%). To maximise long-term potential, we switch actively between the major markets.

Within the USA our main focus is now on smaller companies capable of producing above-average profits growth. From these we select those most likely to outperform the market on Wall Street.

In Japan huge research and development programmes have resulted in world leadership in spheres such as super-fast computers, biotechnology and laser optical discs. For this reason our current holdings are mainly in companies with an almost unchallenged dominance, companies likely to prove highly profitable in the years ahead.

Our approach to UK companies is different again. Here emphasis has been on larger blue chip companies with all the resources required to exploit advances in electronics, pharmaceuticals and biotechnology.

Overall we believe this international spread provides a sound basis for capital growth.

Invest today

Simply complete and return the coupon, together with your cheque (minimum £250) or tick the box for details of regular saving from £20 a month. New Technology Fund goes all out for capital growth - currently has a nil yield. On 26th February 1985 the offer price of units was 119.7p.

Remember that the price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Fund objective To provide long-term capital growth through investment in the shares of companies operating in the field of new technology.

Dealing in units Units may normally be bought or sold on any working day.

Delivery of units Units will be forwarded within 7 days. When units are sold back to the Manager, payment is normally made within 7 days of their receipt of the relevant certificates. Prices and the yield are quoted in the Financial Times, The Times and/or *Prospect* £431284.

Net income distribution (if any) 15th February each year.

Changes Initial charge 5% plus rounding adjustment cov exceeding the lower of 1% or 2.25% per unit. Redemptions (not including the Fund's requirement to be paid) and other professional services Annual charges approximately 1.5% plus VAT plus VAT.

This charge is deducted from the Fund's assets to meet Manager's expenses, including Trustee's fees.

Investment powers The Managers have created a supplemental trust deed enabling them to purchase and write traded options, subject to the limitations laid down by the Department of Trade and Industry.

Salvoes The Fund is authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry and is a wider range investment under the Trustee Investments Act 1961. Trustee: Bank of Scotland.

Managers Save & Prosper Securities Limited, 4 Great St Helens, London EC3P 3EP Tel: 0708-659566. Address: of the Unit Trust Association.

To: Save & Prosper Securities Limited, FREEPOST, Romford RM1 1BR. Telephone: 0708-659566.

I wish to invest £_____ (minimum £250 initially, £100 subsequently) in Save & Prosper New Technology Fund at the offer price prevailing on the day of application.

I enclose a cheque made payable to Save & Prosper Securities Limited. I am over 18.

I would like dividends of income to be reinvested in further units.

*Delete if not applicable.

Please send me details about regular saving in New Technology Fund. □

First Name(s) _____

Surname Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Existing Account No. (Savvy) _____ Date _____

Signature _____

AGENT'S STAMP _____ FOR OFFICE USE ONLY
R.R. R.A.
C.D. No. 033

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

Reg. in Scotland No 19434. Reg. Office: 48 Queen Street, Edinburgh EH2 4YU.

50 SFPT

Telephone: 01-588 7595 for a copy of the prospectus or send the clip to:

Equitable Capital & Securities Limited,
35 New Broad Street,
London EC2M 1NH.

This advertisement does not constitute an offer to subscribe for shares.

Name _____

Address _____

Telephone _____

Kindly send me a copy of my future prospectus.

Tick box _____



SAVE &
PROSPER

NEW TECHNOLOGY FUND

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

George Graham on hidden costs of changing homes

When it's your move next

DO YOU know what you are letting yourself in for when you decide to buy a house? Moving home can be expensive, and you may find yourself with a lot of bills you had not budgeted for.

Buying a home for the first time can be particularly daunting. It is all very well being told to allow for the costs of paying a solicitor, but how much does a solicitor charge? Many solicitors are reluctant to give a firm price quotation in advance, saying it will depend on the work required to carry out the house purchase.

The Woolwich Building Society has produced a guide to the cost of moving house, based on a survey of 36 towns in Britain. It shows the probable costs of selling your old home, of moving your belongings and of buying a new house.

When selling your old home, the two main costs you face are legal fees and estate agents' fees. For a house worth £20,000 to £25,000, the solicitor's fee is likely to be £207. This would rise to £288 on a house selling for £35,000, £353 for £45,000 and £422 for £50,000.

Estate agents' fees are likely to be between 1.5 per cent and 2 per cent of the selling price

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Solicitors' fees can vary widely, and the final bill from your lawyer will include a

Removals

of items beside the charge for his own work. There could be

YOUR SAVINGS AND INVESTMENTS

Freedom to weed out the losers

George Graham
on a unit trust
manager with a
different approach

THE SECRET of good investment is avoiding losers, says Anthony Bolton. You have to cut failures out of your portfolio, even if that means selling below the price you originally paid for them.

That is one reason why he prefers running a unit trust to looking after pension funds or private clients' investments. There's more freedom to weed out losers quickly, instead of worrying about how to explain to the trustees or to the client why you sold a share at a loss.

Bolton manages the Fidelity Special Situations fund, which ranks sixth in the league tables of UK unit trusts over the last five years. Since its launch in December 1979 the price of its units has climbed from 25p to 105p.

The Special Situations label implies to Bolton the right to take greater risks in his search for capital growth—he is willing to buy the more volatile shares, or to concentrate the fund in a smaller number of shares.

But it is not an invitation to buy every share whose price is expected to soar when another company bids to take it over. Chasing 'bid' candidates doesn't seem to him a good way of making money unless you think the share is good value anyway.

Bolton describes his investment approach as "looking for fashion in the unfashionable." He wants to find companies that the mass of investors are going to get excited about at some

point in the future. "You are looking for good value plus an added ingredient," he says. "It could be someone who holds a stake in the company, it could be a management change, it could be a new product."

Bolton is willing to scour the globe to find these companies with added ingredients, one that he recalls—with some enthusiasm was Allflex, from far-off New Zealand.

Allflex had patents which gave it a stranglehold on the entire world market for plastic clips to put in new curvilinear abattoir septic tanks, perhaps, but there are plenty of others out there waiting to be tapped.

The company also benefited from a falling New Zealand dollar and from tax concessions to exporters.

But Allflex had still more bright ideas. It wanted to add electronic chips to each tag, allowing close monitoring of each cow's movements, and to impregnate the tags with insecticide—so that the cattle would be less bothered by flies and would therefore get fat faster.

Bolton did well from Allflex's success, but he has since sold the stock as the car tag patents are lost, and the exporters' tax concessions approached their expiry.

Typically, Bolton looks ahead by about a year when assessing a share, but there are occasions when the price goes up quickly so he decides to sell sooner. In fact, he confesses that he often sells too early—partly because "I slightly dislike doing what everyone else is doing."

But there are times when the wait can be much longer. Bolton regards jeans manufacturer Lee Cooper as one of the cheapest



Anthony Bolton: fashion in the unfashionable

shares in the market, selling at a price equivalent to between three and three and a half times the value of its 1985 earnings.

He has held it for a couple of years now, while the price has done nothing. But he is still prepared to take the view that at some stage he will be proved right.

You can't afford to have too many "flockaway" shares of this kind in your portfolio, however. Bolton points out that the opportunity cost of a mistake is high; in other words, you must consider not only a gain or loss on the share itself, but also what you could have gained by investing in something else.

Bolton does not place as much emphasis as some other fund managers on the quality of a company's management. It is an important factor in assessing the shares, but only one of the factors. "To me, the figures are even more important."

But he does watch what manufacturers are doing, particularly when it comes to buying and selling shares in their own companies.

Bolton had shares in London & Liverpool, the wonder stock of 1983 which slid into liquidation in 1984. The price went far higher than he had expected and he sold his stake.

When the price halved again from its peak of 25p, he thought there might be an opportunity to buy back in—but changed his mind quickly when he saw that the company's directors were still selling their own shares.

Bolton has also worried when he saw a number of directors were selling their shares in computer company ACT. But he has been assured that they are only selling out of the parent ACT to buy shares in the new associate Apricot Inc, which will undertake the company's U.S. marketing. "That makes me happier."

Malcolm Gammie reports on the composite rate tax scheme

All the answers for discerning depositors

IF YOU HAVE money to deposit with any of the banks or other major deposit-taking institutions, you probably will be aware of the imminent introduction of the composite rate tax scheme. If not, or if the details are unfamiliar, here is a brief description of its salient features.

What is the composite rate of tax?

It is a special rate which will be fixed annually by the Treasury and charged by reference to interest paid by banks and certain other deposit-taking institutions. The rate will be lower than the basic rate of income tax (now 30 per cent), reflecting the fact that some depositors are not liable to tax on the interest paid to them. For 1985-86, the rate has been set at 25.25 per cent.

How does the composite rate scheme work?

The scheme is the same as that applied to building society interest. The rate of interest a bank will pay to you will be a rate net of tax at the composite rate. The bank must hand to the Inland Revenue tax on the interest it pays. So, if your account is credited with £20 interest, the bank must pay tax of £8.75 (tax at 25.25 per cent) on £26.75 is £8.75). You, however, are treated as receiving the interest paid net of tax at the basic rate of 30 per cent. Thus, for tax purposes you receive £28.75, but on which tax at 30 per cent (namely £8.75) has been paid.

Is there any further tax due on the interest received? You must report the income you receive to the Inland Revenue in your tax return; but if you are liable to tax only at basic rate, there will be no further tax to pay. If you pay tax at the higher rates, a further liability will arise in respect of the gross income you are treated as receiving. For

instance, at a 40 per cent rate of tax in the previous example, the tax of £11.43 is due, leaving £2.86 to be paid after deducting the 30 per cent of credit of £8.75.

What is the position if you are not a taxpayer?

If you do not pay tax—because for example, your personal allowances exceed your income for the year—the scheme puts you at a disadvantage as whether the basic rate tax credit nor the 25.25 per cent composite rate can be repaid to the depositor. Such a person may, therefore, be better advised to seek a deposit which still pays interest gross.

Who does the scheme come into operation?

The scheme will operate in relation to any relevant interest paid or credited to an account on or after April 6, 1985. The composite rate applicable to any interest is that ruling at the time the interest is paid or credited, and it is treated as the recipient's income for that year—even though a part of the interest accrued in an earlier year. Interest that accrues up to April 5, 1985, will, accordingly, be within the scheme if paid after that date.

Are all interest-bearing deposits within the scheme?

The application of the scheme depends upon three things: the identity of the depositor; the nature of the deposit made; and the person with whom the money is deposited.

Every individual depositor is potentially within the scheme, whether his investment is made alone or jointly with another individual, as a sole trader or as a member of a partnership. Accounts held by the personal representatives of a deceased person, or by a trust in which there is a life interest, are also within the scope of the scheme. Depositors outside the scheme include companies, societies and clubs, charities and discrete

trusts; so also is a person not ordinarily resident in the UK for tax purposes.

Most forms of sterling deposit are within the scheme; but certain certificates of deposit and other deposits of £50,000 or more for a fixed term of at least 28 days are excluded, as are such forms of indebtedness as ordinary debentures and quoted loan stock.

How do I know what rate of interest I am to receive?

To the same way as building societies, the banks and other institutions will quote two rates on relevant deposits: the net rate at which interest will be credited on the deposit, and the gross rate at which net rate is equal. A third set of rates will also be available for those time and other deposits outside the scheme.

Can I opt out of the scheme?

It is not optional; if the conditions are satisfied, it must be applied. Its introduction significantly narrows the opportunity to receive interest gross. But National Savings Investments and deposits with banks overseas—including those in the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man—continue to be outside the scheme.

Does the introduction of the scheme affect my tax position in the current year (1984/85)?

Although the scheme applies only from 1985/86, its introduction might have an impact on your position for the current tax year. Except in the case of a new deposit, interest paid gross is taxed on a "preceding year basis"; so the interest received in the year to April 5, 1984, would normally be taxed in 1984/85.

When an account closes, or the interest paid on it changes from a gross to a net payment basis, as under the new system, the actual interest received in the final year is taxed in that

year. Thus, a continuing depositor's liability in 1984/85 will be based on the actual interest received in the year to April 5, 1985.

As an administrative matter, however, the Inland Revenue is likely to have assessed tax already in 1984/85 on the basis of the interest received in 1983/84. If this is so, the position will be adjusted after the year end, whether or not an appeal was made against the assessment.

When an account is closed, the Inland Revenue also may adjust the penultimate year to tax the actual interest earned in that year if that gives rise to a higher liability. So, if a deposit account were closed on March 31, 1985, tax for 1983/84 would be based on the interest received in the year to April 5, 1983 unless the actual interest received in 1983/84 was higher.

This rule does not, however, apply if the deposit is retained and merely becomes subject to the new system. In such cases, for the year 1983/84, tax will continue to be based on the interest received in 1982/83. Interest received in the year 1983/84 is not taxed.

Interest earned in the first two years of a deposit account's existence is normally taxed on an actual basis, the position may be different from that described above where the account was opened in the recent past. Finally, if the depositor has several accounts, interest on which has been taxed as an aggregate sum, tax for 1984/85 may still be assessed on a preceding-year basis and may not be adjusted to actual unless all the accounts become subject to the composite rate system.

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MONEY

Of the experts who offer advice, one stands apart



Money. You worked hard for it. Of course it should work hard for you.

A lot of people have good ideas about how to do that. But when it comes to sheer breadth of knowledge, they can't touch your local newsagent.

Because your local newsagent has at your disposal Britain's most experienced and most reliable source of information and advice for the private saver and investor. Investors Chronicle.

It gives a weekly focus on personal finance in its Money Monitor pages plus the essential news, analysis, comment and statistics on companies and markets around the world.

And for new investors, there's something extra. Our newly launched "Beginners' Guide" series tells you step by step everything you need to know about investing and saving.

Investors Chronicle. The trusted counsellor. Available every Friday. At your local newsagent.

Your newsagent
A financial mastermind

INVESTORS CHRONICLE

Right on the money.

Good planning is priceless—
So how can we sell it for £395?



The Soviet approach to planning over the past half century or so has had a consistent problem. It doesn't make much allowance for the needs or methods of individual managers or consumers. But then it doesn't have to. The result has been a dismal record of forecasting inaccuracy and mismanagement. Mind you, if you know anyone who'd like to buy a few million left shoes, we could make a useful introduction.

Of course good planning is priceless, because like any work of art it is a highly individual statement. A good plan must be flexible. Test assumptions. Contrast options. Ideally, it should be both simple to do and simple to understand.

Which is precisely where most spreadsheet software fails down. Most of their manuals make the latest Five Year Plan read like The Wizard of Id.

Not that we want to knock the spreadsheet. After all, it is based on one of the oldest tools of management information - variable assumptions

applied to verifiable data. But faster—and allowing applications from the scientific to the macro-economic. Useful, if that's what you want to do...

And, of course, most spreadsheet software is easy to use. Once you know how. All it requires is enough time and a willingness to do it their way. By memorising, or referring regularly to a manual that is only slightly less opaque than Pravda, you can perform theoretical work which would warn the heart of a Commissar. Of course, it might be a bit of a mystery to your colleagues. But in a planned economy you don't need to worry about bringing people with you...

We think you'll find the switch from spreadsheet software to FT Moneywise much like the shift from a slide-rule to a calculator. It does the job more easily, with less mystery and faster, not merely in calculation, but right from the moment you start to think about the numbers all the way through to the report you will want to produce.

The reason is simple. FT Moneywise

was produced by managers for managers. And who would understand the needs of managers better than the Financial Times? Whether or not you have spreadsheet skills, you can perform the magic. But because the program helps at every stage, you don't need that encyclopaedia-like document at your elbow. Better yet, your colleagues will understand every step in your thinking. Because not only does FT Moneywise print out a full management report to boardroom quality, it does it in a format management understands - from the table of contents to dramatically simple graphics and an appendix summarising the assumptions on which each calculation was made.

The Praesidium might find that helpful.

As a small extra, you can "brand" each page of your report with your corporate logo. A nice touch, whether your audience is the Board, potential clients, or the Secretary General.

So no more hours of explaining to

APPOINTMENTS

Head of the Royal Mail

THE POST OFFICE has made the following senior appointments: Mr Alan Brown becomes director of letter operations, heading the national Royal Mail network which handles 42m letters a day. He was previously director London postal region. Mr Colin Chilvers, chairman of the north-western postal board, becomes director London Postal region. He succeeded in the north-west by Mr Peter Howarth, current head postmaster, Manchester. Mr Cedric Briscoe has been appointed designate director organisation and management development. He has been director of the south-eastern postal region since May 1982. Mr Briscoe's post is a restructuring of two current departments — organisation development and management resource. New director of the south-east postal region is Mr Peter Miloe, the present national director of male operations.

Mr D. H. Eggle is managing director and Mr R. A. Bell, Mr J. A. Hill and Mr A. D. Phillips have been appointed directors. Mr C. J. Brookes and Mr W. R. Fletcher have been appointed and directors of Bunzl Pulp and Paper (Sales), and Mr A. A. Preston has been appointed managing director of a new company, Intercontinental Cellulose Sales (UK), with Mr G. D. Edwards, Mr A. J. Bishenden and Mr R. A. Bell as directors.

Mr Roy Watt has been appointed regional director and general manager at the Devon and Cornwall regional head office of LLOYD'S BANK. He succeeds Mr Alan Goodman, who has retired.

Mr Andrew Marchant is joining the venture capital partnership at SCHROEDERS. The partnership will act as advisers to the Schroder UK Venture Fund. He was general manager of Citicorp Venture Capital.

Mr Simon Newington-Bridges has been appointed managing director of AEROSPACE COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS. Redditch, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Automated Security (Holdings). He comes from his own electronics manufacturing company in Scotland.

Mr A. M. W. Battisbith has been appointed deputy chairman of the board of INLAND REVENUE from June 1, in succession to Mr J. M. Green who is retiring. Mr B. Pollard has been appointed director general (technical) from June 1 in succession to Mr J. B. Rogers who becomes director general (management) in succession to Mr J. H. Gracey who is retiring. Mr Pollard has been director of the counter avoidance and evasion division since 1981.

Mr Terry Ulrick, formerly deputy group sales director, BPCC, is appointed group marketing services director responsible for advertising, promotions, exhibitions and marketing services.

Mr Andy Cowie has been appointed sales director of NORTON TELECOMMUNICATIONS, main operating company of Norton Telecommunications Group. Mr Martin Cawood, the previous sales director, has become group sales director.

ARGYLL GROUP has appointed Mr W. B. Marmoch director of group personnel with responsibility for personnel and management development policies in all group companies. He is appointed to the boards of Argyll Foods and Amalgamated Distilled Products.

Mr Nicholas Bligh has been named vice-president, European operations, responsible for the company's television and related activities at COLUMBIA PICTURES INTERNATIONAL. He will oversee all of the company's activities as they relate to European broadcast television distribution.

Mr Hiromi Tomoya has been appointed managing director of MITA UK, British operation of Japanese copier company Mita Industrial Company. He has spent the last ten years at MITA's European headquarters in Amsterdam.

Sir John Nott has been appointed a director of ROYAL INSURANCE. He is chairman of Lazarus Brothers and Co.

Mr Con Jenkins has decided to resign as managing director of WARD BLENKINSOP. Mr Peter Norton has joined the board as managing director and Mr Don Wiltshire as personnel director.

They hold the same positions to Ward Blenkinsop's sister company.

Mr Alan Stote, chairman of the Confederation of British Industry's smaller firms council, has joined the NATIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL. He is chief executive of the BTS group.

LOVELL CONSTRUCTION (SOUTHERN), Guildford, has appointed Mr Ron Bates a director with responsibility for construction. He joined the group 14 years ago.

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How Whitehall decides whether local councils are on target.



Every year Whitehall sets spending targets for local authorities throughout the country.

This year, under the new ratecapping laws, these targets have become absolute spending limits for those authorities on the so-called "government hit-list".

So it is more important than ever to understand how Whitehall sets its targets in the first place.

According to the 1984 Audit Commission Report (a government document) they are based on information that is inadequate and out of date.

Which is bad enough. But matters are made worse by the fact that Whitehall sets more than one target for each authority.

There's one based on its assessment of general needs throughout the country. And another based on precedents of needs and spending in each area.

The difference between the two is often quite staggering. For example, an authority which actually underspent one target by 4 per cent were judged to be 82 per cent overspenders.

against the other target.

Whitehall also has the power to put its own value on particular local needs, or to increase or decrease money allowed for exceptional cases.

So it can and does treat prosperous and poor communities differently. But not quite in the way you might expect.

For example, the biggest overspender in the country (according to government figures) is the extremely affluent City of London. Yet the City of London will not be ratecapped.

The most deprived borough in the country (again according to a government assessment) will be ratecapped.

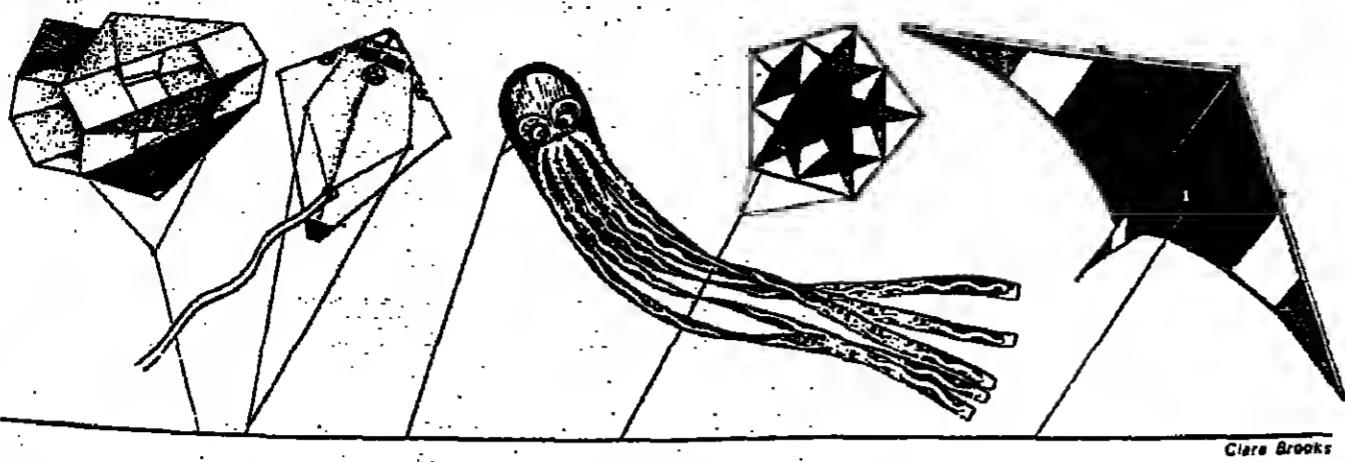
Even though its spending plans are decidedly modest by comparison, and its needs enormous.

So Whitehall not only makes the rules, it applies them in arbitrary, inefficient and unjust ways.

And as nobody can vote out a Whitehall civil servant, the traditional democratic means of ensuring fair play no longer apply.

Ratecapping makes no sense.

HOW TO SPEND IT



Spectra's Octopus is a fun kite with a 25 ft tail for kids; guaranteed to fascinate tiny tots. Also in Space Shuttle and Unicorn designs. Strong Mylar plastic sail. For gentle winds. About £14.50.

Small faceted five-sided kite from Fenimore Kites. Novel externally-braced configuration which suits steady moderate winds. Fine for a breezy day in the park. £12.25.

Dan Delta: 8 ft 10 in span soarer for light winds and balmy summer days. Individually handmade and signed by perfectionist designer Dan Leigh and highly rated by enthusiasts. About £30.

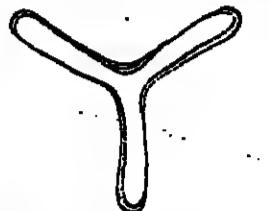
Right: Designer Peter Waldron with his Professor Waldron Superstar, a big geometric kite for the enthusiast. Price £55.



Many happy returns

THIS selection of boomerangs from a range of more than a dozen at the Kite Store, all come back, so be ready to duck.

Andy King in London and David Klein of Go Fly a Kite in New York both report an increasing interest in this flying phenomenon, and there is something totally fascinating in watching one perform.



Boomerangs do have to be used with considerable caution, and never in a built-up park. The large curved Australian ones travel a very long way at high speed and are safe only in the hands of the experienced.



C

Bernard Mason, in his book Boomerangs — How to Make and Throw Them (Dove Publications), isn't joking when he says these are dangerous to the thrower to spectators.



Clerk Brook

High fliers

Kite flying is inspiring increasing enthusiasm with more people than ever taking up this soothng, fun and easy pastime. MICHAEL STRUTT explains what kites to look out for and how to fly them.

AS SPRING breezes blow away winter chills, the airspace above parks and commons will be decorated again with cheerful kites. Britain's most modest—and relaxing—form of "aviation" will be under way for another summer.

The popularity of kiteflying since its rediscovery and revival in the 1970s continues to expand among all ages but particularly among adults, and it is still inexpensive.

A kite that flies beautifully and straight from your hand need not cost more than £5 and can be much less. For £5 to £10 or so there is a wide choice, usually covered in ripstop nylon from which most quality kites are made.

The colours are marvellous: bright reds, yellow, greens, and mauve and orange. And pink flying against a blue sky on a sunny day can be frankly poetic, an uplifting sight in every way.

"An amazing variety of people are flying kites," says Peter Walter of Malvern Kites, who is planning for the Easter rush at his Worcestershire shop. "It seems especially popular among doctors and retired businessmen."

Above all, it can be a delightful family pastime, one to tempt kids away from the computer and into the fresh air for a while.

Be careful, though, about buying on impulse. Many toy shops and department stores regard kites as simply seasonal toys and stock cheap imports from the Far East which barely fly. Great, only if you enjoy a lot of exhausting running about. In London, Harrods is virtually

ally alone among the big stores, offering a worthwhile range, that all fly well, all the year round.

Reliable makes to look for include Spectra, Wycombe, Dunford, Ferrari, Glinter, and Brookite which in these days of new lightweight materials, still produce the traditional and somewhat heavy cotton-covered designs.

You will also find the very manoeuvrable Peter Powell Stunter (about £8) with its long tubular tail for skywriting, which, as James Lesley of London's Kite and Balloon Company says, "put kiteing on the map" again.

New high-performance competitors to the Stunter are the Trify (about £6) and Zig Zag (£4.95) which have strong polythene sails and durable glass-fibre spars that can cope with power dives into the ground

without breaking.

It is at the specialist kite shops that you will find a remarkable choice of the very best kites, at all prices. There are fighting kites, rollers, boxes, soft kites and plain diamonds, to fly in all winds from the gentlest breeze to a near gale.

Here are sold many more of the top names in the art—Kiteeeder—for a remarkable £1.90—Flexifoil, Martin Lester, Dan Leigh, Monday Lunch, Professor Waldorff, Vertical Visuals and Greens—often in a choice of colour combinations.

And for £2.95 you can still buy those delightful Chinese paper insect and butterfly kites, which remain the cheapest and easiest way to decorate a plain wall at home. They fly too, though they are delicate.

For what you get, kites are remarkably good value. Most of the quality ones are hand-made and have to be very accurately cut out, machined and assembled to perform well. Yet the price of many has changed little in six or seven years.

From left: Fosket's six-winged box kite. A strong, versatile design that suits light to fairly strong winds, since it has plenty of lifting surfaces and is well-braced. Fine for children aged 10 upwards and adults. £8.50.

Peter Powell Stunter. Famous steerable kites of the 1970s still going strong and a lot of fun for children and adults alike. Glassfibre spars and polythene sail make it nearly indestructible. Medium to strongish winds. £8.95.

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The reason, says Andy King of the Kite Store, Covent Garden in London, is economies of scale. "Where a few years ago we might have made say 10 of a particular design, we now do a batch of 100, which works out cheaper."

Kiteflying is basically a cottage industry but some makers such as Dan Leigh have a considerable reputation, especially in the U.S. And they regularly come up with new variations.

Among the most unusual new shapes are the Professor Waldorff range, costing about £18 to £55—highly imaginative examples of flying geometry which are full of mathematical subtleties. Flying them as well

submits an extra bonus.

Even the standard box kite, normally best in strong winds, has been made more versatile. Vertical Visuals Gemini, for instance, not only has sprouted pointed wings which give extra lift, its shape can be altered to suit light winds or strong simply by assembling the two bracing stays in different ways.

Soft kites need a steady breeze to keep them aloft because they have no spars to create the shape; the wind inflates them. Green's Statoscoop range generate enormous lift for their size from their wing form and the two smallest, at £8.95 and £22.95, are enough for most people to handle.

Others include Ferrari, in several sizes, and the Wycombe

Super Tube (£6.99). All the small soft kites will fold up and go in a pocket.

Weycombe makes a range of deltas in several sizes which will fly easily in light winds and soar in summer thermals.

There is also the extra-ordinary steerable Dunford Flying Machine (£12.95).

If you want to splash out on something even more dramatic, how about an 84 ft span America Bald Eagle at £70, a Canada Goose with 10 ft span at £90, or even a 12 ft-long shark that flies its tail in the wind (£110), all from Martin Lester.

With the more intricate you are really buying individually made aero sculpture, and indeed you can have kites made to your own specification or colours, or with a particular applied design. One that I saw had a desert island with two palm trees on it and you cannot be more escapist than that.

The specialist shops keep in close touch with the makers and a lot of knowledge about the craft is shared. Dan Leigh, for example, is noted almost as much for his long, detailed letters explaining his work as for his beautifully-made deltas and other shapes, which are sought after by enthusiasts both here and in the U.S. They cost from about £20 upwards.

If buying a kite that is certain to fly is too easy, then you can always make your own. The kite shops carry plenty of materials such as ripstop nylon, spars, fittings and line, and

there are plenty of books to explain how it is done.

And you might produce something completely original.

• If you want to find out more, the Kite Society, with 500 members are given discounts in abroad, produces a quarterly magazine, organises trips to big European kite events, and members are given discounts in kite shops. Send a stamped addressed envelope to 31 Grange Road, Ilford, Essex.

KITE SHOPS

Kite and Balloon Company, 618, Garratt Lane, London SW18 (01-947 8505); and 27 Essex Street, Birmingham 5 (021 622 23310).

Kite Store, 69, Neal Street, London WC2 (01-836 16661).

Malverno Kites, St Ann's Well, Great Malvern, Worcestershire (05845 65504).

Greens Kites sells its own range at 836, Colne Road, Burnley, Lancs (022 39650).

All of these offer a mail order service.

KITE EVENTS

April 7 and 8: Easter Kite Festival, Blackheath, London SE8.

May 5: Old Warden Kite Festival, Old Warden Aerodrome, near Biggleswade, Beds. May 26: Brighton Kite Festival, North Sheepoole Valley, Brighton, Sussex. All start from 10 am.

The smaller, lighter ones illustrated fly in a tight circle, especially the three and four-winged kind, and will hover neatly before the land. You still have to make sure no spectators or passers-by are within range.

Throw boomerangs in straight air or into a slight breeze. Anything stronger can blow them well off course, unpredictable results.

Keep anyone with a standing on your right, away from the expected landing point, since boomerangs invariably fly anti-clockwise.

If you don't believe, try and see.

Pretty pottery pots of hand cream can be found at National Trust shops around the country—profits on the sale of these products is ploughed back into the care and restoration of historic buildings and



on

protection. Costing £1.25, the cream is available in a choice of five fragrances. Sweet Pea, Sweet Briar, Honey Suckle, Lilac, and Rose and Cucumber. For details of your nearest branch stockist ring National Trust Enterprises 0373 826526.

countryside under the Trust's protection. Costing £2.25, the cream is available in a choice of five fragrances. Sweet Pea, Sweet Briar, Honey Suckle, Lilac, and Rose and Cucumber. For details of your nearest branch stockist ring National Trust Enterprises 0373 826526.

WHAT do Dame Peggy Aynsley, Sir Colin Davis, Stephen Bishop-Kocerevic and Dame June Tabor have in common? It's a gold concert dress!

Sir Colin Davis will be conducting the Cheltenham Orchestra of Europe in a major Mozartian programme with Beethoven's piano concerto No 4 in G major played by Stephen Bishop-Kocerevic.

Both Dame Peggy and Dame June are patrons of this newly-created charity which aims to create a research, teaching and care centre for visually impaired children in London.

Tickets are from £5 to £12 from the box office of Royal Festival Hall. The concert will be held in the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Thursday 8 pm.

POSTSCRIPT

IF YOU own a pair of size 11 feet or stop short at 5 ft 2 ins or beneath, finding footware in the shadow of her taller legger sisters, women of 5 ft 2 ins and under will soon have a shop to themselves. Called Little Women, this new venture is the brainchild of Jacky Nathan, an ex-biochemist turned fashion retailer. Measuring in at 4 ft 10 ins herself, she knows all about the problems of trying to clothe the smaller figure.

She aims to stock a range of co-ordinated separates, mostly British made and designed by herself. In sizes 6 to 14, from jumpers to skirts. There will be some accessories too, such as belts and Mulberry bags with shorter straps. Find Little Women at 4 Langley Court, Covent Garden, London WC2 (Tel 01-836 9640).

Opening in 10 days time, on March 20, is a shop catering specially for the shorter woman. No more languishing in the shadow of her taller legger sisters, women of 5 ft 2 ins and under will soon have a shop to themselves. Called Little Women, this new venture is the brainchild of Jacky Nathan, an ex-biochemist turned fashion retailer. Measuring in at 4 ft 10 ins herself, she knows all about the problems of trying to clothe the smaller figure.

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Prices range from around £17.50. Special colours are available on request for an extra charge of £3 though delivery will take three to four weeks.

An original touch comes from the singularly named shop Frog Hollow, which has designed a special cushion to mark Mother's Day. Designed in cross-stitch on plain white fabric with pink piping, it says:

"God could not be everywhere, so he made mothers."

Catering for both ends of the scale is the Small and Tall Shoe Shop which fits feet from 13 to 2½ up to 8½ to 11 (English sizes). Though London-based, at 71 York Street, W1 (tel 01-723 5521) the shop has the distinct virtue of running a mail order scheme. Customers can request either of the free leaflets (stating either small size or tall size) which shows clearly sketched

styles, conservative in mood, from classic courts to strappy sandals and comfys flatters.

"God could not be everywhere, so he made mothers."

two diamonds, a bad bid—one not trump is the only possible response—I rebid three hearts, and played to drop the doubleton Queen with West.

The next day, during a teams-of-four match, this model turned up:

Sitting South, I dealt in the South seat and opened the heart four, to which my partner replied with

two diamonds, a bad bid—one not trump is the only possible response—I rebid three hearts, and this was followed by three passes.

West found the most inconvenient lead of the two of clubs, setting up two winners for the declarer, and prospects were not bright. I had two losers in each black suit, and there were

to the club two. I won with dummy's Ace and considered the position. I could ruff one heart, so the only problem was the trump Queen. The Find-the-Lady play came to my mind, so though I had no loser to dispose of, I at once returned the diamond Knave, like a man who needed a discard in a hurry. East threw a heart—but he must have the spade Queen—so I crossed to my Ace of hearts, cashed the Ace of spades, ruffed the heart queen, and returned a spade, finessing the Knave, and scored my game. Had East ruffed the diamond Knave, I would have over-ruffed, and played to drop the doubleton Queen with West.

The first hand occurred a week ago at rubber bridge:

With neither side vulnerable, I dealt in the South seat and opened the heart four and the club nine, and then switched

N
♦ 8 7 4
♦ 3
♦ J 5 4
* A J 10 4 3

W
♦ 6 2
♦ J 1
* A K Q 10 9 8
* Q 8 7 2

E
♦ 8 7 4
♦ 3
♦ J 5 4
* A J 10 4 3

Q 9 5
Q 8 6
Q 7 4 3
Q 5 3

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person

LEISURE

Tim Dickson reports on preparations for the Open Golf championship
A slight interruption at Sandwich

SOME TIME next month vast grandstands will suddenly sprout up to dominate the normally featureless landscape of the Royal St George's Golf Club, at Sandwich in Kent. The construction of 17,000 green-side seats will for most people be the first visible sign of preparations for this year's Open Golf Championship, which will be held on the famous sea-links between July 18 and 21.

But, behind the scenes, months, if not years, of careful thought and planning have already been devoted to ensuring the success of the world's greatest golfing event.

Subtle but significant alterations, for example, have already been made to the course so that the skills of Watson, Ballesteros and the rest can be fully put to the test; detailed plans have been discussed with local police, local authorities and local utilities for accommodating the estimated 150,000 spectators expected to descend on the tiny corner of Kent; while entertainment facilities have been organised in the "tent city" so that City stockbrokers and West End art dealers can enjoy ample food and drink, as well as an exciting day out with their clients.

The choice of venue for the Open Championship always rests with the Royal and Ancient Golf Club, and is made usually three to four years in advance of the event. All revenue from the "gate," tented village and lucrative TV contracts goes to the R and A as exclusive organiser while the "host" club, in return for a substantial facility fee, agrees to provide a course in suitable condition, accepts the loss of income from green fees before and during the Championship, and puts up with the wear and tear from thousands of tramping feet.

The decision for Sandwich in 1985 was made in late 1981, the year in fact of the last Open Championship at Royal St



George's when the blond Texan Bill Rogers emerged as an unlikely, but highly popular winner.

Once the 1985 venue was known the R and A (as usual) booked as much hotel accommodation as it thought necessary so that the army of competitors, camp followers and tournament officials will be guaranteed somewhere to stay.

Sandwich itself is a small town with narrow windy streets but

while lacking in the sort of large hotels commonly found close to other courses there is no shortage of rooms within a 15-20-mile radius of the first tee.

A significant cost to the club has been the resurfacing of an old highway linking nearby Deal and Sandwich Bay which until 1981 was unsuitable for motor vehicles but which enabled one-third of all cars that year to reach the course.

Poor communications, in fact, explain the long gap between 1949 and 1981 when Sandwich did not play host to an Open — it was only the completion of the Sandwich bypass which finally ended the "lean years" in 1981.

1949, readers may recall, was the famous year when Irishman Harry Bradshaw, unaware that he could have taken a free drop, played his ball "as it layed" out of a broken bottle in the right of a broken bottle on the right of

The club says "The players

the fifth hole. In the event he only managed to move it a few yards, subsequently ended up level after four rounds with Bob Locke, and lost to the great man in the next day's play-off.

Dire predictions of lengthy jams — unjustified as it turned out — kept some spectators away in 1981. But with club captain Angus Lloyd and Neil Roach, chairman of the club championship committee both confident that such fears were dispelled last time, the organisers are expecting a record attendance for what after all is the only modern Open venue south of Lancashire. Police signposting will start nearly 50 miles away with a helicopter and radio control diverting traffic to the most favourable route.

A special significance, meanwhile, is attached this year to the possibility that two players (or more) will be tied on the same score after four rounds, something which last happened when Tom Watson and Jack Newton ended up level in 1975 at Carnoustie.

Today there is a comprehensive system of rules and regulations involving the purchase and dispersal of works of art. The full intricacies are known to a few specialists; for most of us, including the owners of valuable goods, confusion reigns. To provide some assistance Sotheby's has just published "An outline of the taxation and exemption of works of art in the UK," and copies can be obtained from 34-35 New Bond Street, London, W1.

In 30 pages the booklet races through those mysterious phrases — capital transfer tax;

these days hit the hall vast distances. The idea is that they will now be faced with a shot to the green more like the one envisaged when the court was set out.

Some at Royal St George's inevitably grumble that the championship does little more than disrupt their daily foursome footballs wisely are not allowed at any time!

Most people, however, realise that staging a great event like the Open is not only exciting in itself but brings prestige, extra visitors and a healthy influx of new members. The cumulative effect of 1981 and 1985 has certainly been to breathe new life into what some say had been a declining club.

Financially, Royal St George's reckons there will be little, if any, short term gain — the facility fee will be largely eaten up by necessary expenses to bring the course and clubhouse into scratch.

Not every detail, however, can be planned perfectly in advance. The plight of the pound, for example, may force the R and A to increase its total £530,000 prize money a figure which was announced last October when sterling was in the \$1.30 to \$1.30 range.

Only the top 20 overseas finishers can expect to cover their costs so a bigger kitty may be needed to entice more Americans across the Atlantic.

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For the first time in the history of the Open the winner will not be decided by an 18-hole play-off the following day. Those tied at the top will set off for five extra holes of medal (1, 2, 9, 17 and 18) after which sudden death will resolve the deadlock.

Tiptoe through the taxation maze

Money and art: A new guide reviewed by Antony Thorncroft

WE READ that the executors of the late Sir Roland Penrose have sold a painting by Chirico to the Tate Gallery for £1m in a "private treaty sale"; that a Renoir has gone to the Barber Institute of Fine Arts in Birmingham "in lieu of tax"; that the Duke of Devonshire has established Chatsworth as a "charitable trust"; that the British Museum is trying to raise £200,000 to keep a Samuel Palmer water-colour in this country which has been refused an "export licence for five months." As art becomes big business so the Inland Revenue exacts its due.

It was ever so. A hundred years ago the National Gallery received a special Government grant to secure for the country pictures dispersed in the Duke of Hamilton's sale. In 1884 estate duty was formally introduced to tax works of art which were already being sold off by an aristocracy wilting under the agricultural depression. Scarcely a century after the UK had become the treasure house of the world, containing the pickings of the Grand Tour and following the collapse of the French nobility, the outflow of works of art had begun — to the new rich, the Americans.

To provide some assistance Sotheby's has just published "An outline of the taxation and exemption of works of art in the UK," and copies can be obtained from 34-35 New Bond Street, London, W1.

In 30 pages the booklet races through those mysterious phrases — capital transfer tax;

capital gains tax (a good candidate for Budget revision?); value added tax; exemption; heritage sales; export licensing; maintenance funds, also due for a change?, and charitable trusts.

Sotheby's sees the publication as a child's guide, to help the rich (and the not so rich) and their solicitors.

It is a fair minded publication to come from an auction house because it also includes avenues of disposing of works of art other than the saleroom. It gives the impression, of course, that Sotheby's can be relied upon for the best advice — which might include selling off one or two family heirlooms!

The booklet does not go into detail, but here are some thoughts for owners of saleable works of art.

• Any item which sells for less than £3,000 is exempt from Capital Gains Tax. A collection of netsuke sold recently at auction for £230,000, but since the great majority of lots were valued at under £3,000 the vendor paid very little tax.

If the family treasures are jointly owned by a husband and wife the exemption level rises to £6,000 — an often ignored advantage. It is possible that the Budget this month could change capital gains tax, increasing the burden on short-term pickings, but making things easier for those who have seen their unconsidered trifles appreciate greatly in line with the general inflation of works of art.

One second thought: a pair of Georgian candlesticks might be split up to duck the £3,000 barrier, but as a pair the gain in their sale price could outweigh the imposition of tax.

• It is essential to have frequent valuations. In five years the sale price of a collection of works of art could rise three-fold, not because of any general appreciation, but because a few exceptional items have multiplied greatly in value. Only by frequent valua-



"The uncertainty of the poet" by Giorgio de Chirico which the Tate has acquired through a private treaty sale from the executors of Sir Roland Penrose, with financial advantages to both sides.

tions can owners make sensible provision against tax. In short, they should regard their collections like a share portfolio, deciding on the pieces they want to keep permanently, nad earmarking possible items for sale.

• The maximum rate of capital transfer tax when works of art are passed on in the lifetime of the owner is a relatively low 30 per cent. It might be a good idea to give the family treasures to your heirs now and avoid a massive bill on your death, when the top rate is 60 per cent.

• It is also worth considering whether it is better to establish a charitable trust or to sell with the rapid rise in value of works of art, taking certain items out of exemption. At the moment if you own important national treasures, and allow them to acquire an object at below the market price, the vagaries of the export licence system — Sotheby's hooker — touches on such subjects and more. It does not attempt to go into detail, but it should alert those who still own collectables to the pitfalls as well as the privileges in their posses-

sions can easily make a substantial profit which would ease any future tax burdens.

For almost a century the British rich have had their family treasures remorselessly fated away by the Treasury. At first they sold land; now they are having to dispose of works of art to pay capital transfer tax. They have gained by the rapid appreciation of most such works in the past two decades but only if they know their way around their treasures.

Whether it is better to set up

a charitable trust or to es-

tablish a maintenance fund,

the chances of a private treaty sale with a museum, which has tax advantages for the vendor and enables national institutions to acquire an object at

below the market price, the vagaries of the export licence system — Sotheby's hooker — touches on such subjects and more. It does not attempt to go into detail, but it should alert those who still own collectables to the pitfalls as well as the privileges in their posses-

sons. The enlightened eye will spot tempestuous vists of Greek Gods and goddesses, volcanoes, lusty windheads, smoky clouds and strong ocean currents, even the fine rigging on sailing ships.

In Sebastian Cabot's elliptical map, Antwerp 1544, engraved on copper in eight sheets, there are conquistadores fighting Indians in Peru, a splendid tent of the Great Khan, polar bears, and a large jaguar or cougar. Yet a Shirley observes, the map is strangely inexact.

The Mediterranean is much misspelled, the British Isles are very poorly rendered and Scandinavia is little better drawn. Iceland, too, is shown at most due north of Scotland.

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FINANCIAL TIMES

BRACKEN HOUSE, CANNON STREET, LONDON EC4P 4BY
Telegrams: Finantimo, London PS4. Telex: 8854871
Telephone: 01-2488000

Saturday March 9 1985

Now the real fight begins

MR BERNARD CORNFELD, when he was head of Investors Overseas Services used to ask job applicants for his selling force one simple question: "Do you sincerely want to be rich?" Now Mr Cornfeld was out a reputable businessman, as most readers will remember, IOS subsequently collapsed in a major scandal. He was no fool, though, and he knew that most people, faced with the real choice—the work, the risks, and in his enterprise, the easily-subduced conscience required to get rich, would have to answer "No." Comfortable, yes; rich—well, not if it means disconcert.

And what, you may be wondering, has this got to do with the price of coal? Quite a lot, as we may discover in the months to come. Mr Ian MacGregor has now won the Government's fight—a power struggle that began 12 years ago and seemed lost by Mr Edward Heath in 1974.

Forget solidarity

This, however, merely clears the ground for the battle Mr MacGregor wants in fight—over if it can be done peacefully, for the questions he wants to pose. Do the miners sincerely want to be rich? He has a plan for a decentralised industry, rewarding performance, in which face workers at the potentially productive pits could within a short time be earning not an increase to keep up with inflation, or the sort of 30 per cent rise the railwaymen have now claimed, (showing again that one battle does not win a war), but two or three times their present wage—the sort of money a finance director in a medium-sized company would

graham for. But to get it, they would have to forget about national solidarity, about equal treatment for the retired face workers on the surface, about preserving mining jobs and communities where the seams are running out.

Now this is exactly the kind of revolution, leading to high productivity and high pay, that Mrs Margaret Thatcher has somewhere at the back of her mind, and sometimes nearer the front. It can be done in some companies in this country, as, for example, the Jaguar experience has shown. It can be done in whole communities; the authorities in Singapore use wage pressure to keep entrepreneurs up to the mark, and squeeze out low-paid, low-productivity work. But it is a very difficult thing to do in a largish country with bad habits, and the Government, too, is sometimes tempted to opt for the comfortable life.

It's like the legendary Irish remark: you can't get there from here. For one thing, rising efficiency—especially when

IKE A giant supertanker negotiating a particularly delicate turn, the U.S. property and casualty insurance industry is now trying to pull away from the standstill that has been threatening disaster for the past two years.

This is of vital significance for insurers in the UK, where three famous names this week reported their worst results for decades. General Accident and Royal Insurance just managed to scrape together pre-tax profits of £2.8m and £11.2m respectively. But Commercial Union turned in a thumping £22.8m pre-tax loss.

The root of the problem in each case is the United States where all three companies are greatly exposed.

But if the experience of domestic U.S. insurers is anything to go by, there may be a glimmer of hope on the horizon.

There is evidence, particularly in the form of higher prices, that the big U.S. insurers may have changed direction just in time to avert a major wreck. But there is virtual unanimity that they still face a further 12-month haul before they move back into anything like healthy profits.

Since 1980, the composite insurance sector has been turning up steadily larger underwriting losses, culminating last year in its worst results since the infamous San Francisco earthquake of 1906.

According to Wall Street estimates, the industry was operating on such unfavourable terms in 1984, that the big insurers were paying out \$1.17 in claims and expenses for each dollar they took in. Indeed in some sectors, such as medical malpractice, the companies were having to spend almost \$1.80 for each dollar of premium income.

Even worse, however, was that for the first time in

Problems compounded by weather-related series of disasters

This frustration no doubt explains why Mrs Thatcher's admiration for what the U.S. has achieved—and the popularity it has won for the Thatcher—is now so much louder than her criticism of the means used to achieve it. Until only a few weeks ago, it could have been expected that Mr Nigel Lawson would have exploited every hopeful projection and every form of window-dressing to apply the maximum supply-side stimulus—that is, tax cuts, not spending—in his coming Budget to get the momentum restarted.

Even now, with the dollar a little "woolly" rather than a financial juggernaut, he might recover some of this nerve (and must surely wish too that he had nicked the latest possible day in April).

The odds remain long, though, that he will be cautious, hoping that sterling depreciation will achieve what he dare not assist; and the public message will be familiar, but depressing. The Government may already be concluding that the hostile electorate does not sincerely want to be rich; hustling can be left to foreigners. Whatever Mr Lawson feels able to do in 10 days, he should at least try to convince us that the Government does not think the public is right to be so passive.

It was not until the middle of last year that the industry began to take the first steps to put its house in order. By that

Record insurance losses

At last, the U.S. tide may be turning

Terry Dodsworth and Paul Taylor
in New York look at the industry's dramatic problems

lime, the insurers had been shaken by the fact that two of the major composite companies, Fireman's Fund and The Hartford, had been forced to bolster reserves and thus report yawning losses.

As the effects of these shock measures rippled through the sector, the insurers began to push up prices—and set them stick for the first time.

Mr Jay Brown, Fireman's Fund chief financial officer and executive vice-president, says companies looked at their ratios and saw that they had deteriorated well beyond anything they had experienced in the past. "All of a sudden," he adds, "prices took off like a rocket."

In some commercial lines, policy holders are now facing a second round of price increases that will have lifted their

premiums by as much as 40 to 50 per cent since the start of last year. The price rises have been most dramatic in those areas like general liability insurance and medical malpractice where the industry has been particularly badly hit.

"We are going to have to have another round of price increases before we see the financial results we think are adequate," says Mr Caleb Fowler, chief financial officer of Cigna.

Several factors have underpinned this upward price momentum. The first was a sharp increase last year in the cost of reinsurance, which all the composite insurers use to lay off some of their larger risks.

Second, the profit squeeze began to force through the capacity reductions which

insurers normally anticipate at the bottom of the underwriting cycle.

One of the unusual features of the insurance crisis of the past few years has been the abnormally high level of real interest rates. Healthy portfolio profits have encouraged players to stay in the market long after they would normally have disappeared. Last year the swing finally caught up with them. A record 15 companies sank into insolvency, while companies were forced to cut capacity in all areas—many of them withdrawing from certain lines entirely.

Indeed, senior industry officials have now begun to talk of a capacity shortage. Mr Daniel McNamara, president of the Insurance Services Office, says that the capacity shortage could be "severe even under

very reasonable assumptions." He predicts that the property-casualty companies would be unable to write \$62bn of potentially available business over the next three years.

On the other side of the recovery equation, insurance companies have begun aggressively cutting costs, mostly by closing offices, sacking agents and trimming staff. Continental Corporation, the nation's fifth largest publicly-owned property-casualty company, purged a quarter of its staff, 1,750 people, in all last year. Mr Jay Brown says Fireman's Fund reduced its property and casualty workforce by 1,300, or 10 per cent, as part of a programme to cut annual costs by \$70m.

Up to a year ago, many insurers were unwilling to take these drastic steps because of

the fear of losing volume and market share. With the buoyant economy now generating new business and available insurance capacity in decline, it has been much easier for chief executives to insist on searching out quality rather than quantity.

In a surprising number of the very large companies, including Aetna, Travelers,

The buoyant economy is now generating new business

Crum & Forster and fireman's fund, this fresh drive for profitable business has been accelerated by an influx of new senior managers.

Wall Street has been signalling the changed profit prospects of the industry for the past six months. First Boston says that since the middle of November, the market price of 16 of the leading U.S. insurance stocks has gone up by an average of 16 per cent against a 7.5 per cent gain in the S and P 400 index.

But virtually no one in the industry believes that it will be plain sailing from now on.

Mr DeRoy Thomas, chairman and chief executive of the Hartford, says the recovery will be patchy, although the prospects "are a lot more rosy than for some time."

Others like Jay Brown insist that the industry still does not recognise the severity of its problems. He believes operating losses in 1985 will actually prove to be higher than last year, that there will be more insolvencies and that reserves remain inadequate.

At best, most analysts are warning that it could be 1986 before the property-casualty sector begins to show any real profit improvement.

Eric Short

WHY THE UK MARKET ALSO TURNED SOUR

ATTENTION THIS week has been focused on the bloodbath in the U.S. insurance market—but conditions elsewhere have also been getting rougher.

The UK, which used to be a haven of stability, has deteriorated fast in recent years.

Commercial Union lost \$91.6m in its domestic market last year—more than double the level which is considered by the sector's supervisory authorities as a reasonable level to ensure its underlying health.

Capacity has expanded rapidly in the UK as a result of increasing international competition. British companies have reacted vigorously to defend their position and the competition has been exacerbated by the country's poor economic performance.

Premium rates for commercial business have been slashed as companies endeavoured to retain business. Mr Tom Roberts, General Accident's general manager for the UK, says that certain rates were cut by as much as 30 per cent.

The competition subsequently spilled over into the UK per-

sonal insurance market as reckoning. Faced with mounting underwriting losses, insurers began to edge their rates higher.

Mr Alan Horsfold, Royal's chief executive, says modestly: "We saw some price firming in commercial lines in 1984." However, these increases—averaging around 10 per cent—have tended to be confined to the poorer risks.

The premium recovery in commercial lines is only just starting in the UK "aided by a very tough reinsurance market," according to Mr Horsford.

On the personal side, insurance companies like the CU have also not been getting rougher.

For some years high interest rates in the UK enabled insurers to offset underwriting losses with rising investment income, so that UK business overall still managed to show a profit.

But last year was the year of

recovery admits "the increase is inadequate, but this is a reasonably rated class of business."

Motor insurance remains as competitive as ever. GA, CU and the Royal have all been making premium increases—though GA has paid the price by seeing its portfolio shrink significantly over the past two years.

Any recovery in the motor account last year was stopped in its tracks by a rise in claim numbers in the autumn.

This should be a less disastrous year for UK insurers if only because the winter has been less severe than the last one.

But once a recovery gets under way, companies will again start fighting to claw back market share. An industry which used to make comfortable profits in a cartel-like marketplace is having to face up to the fact that competition is here to stay.

Eric Short

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Return to Wengen

From Messrs H. and C. Brasher

Sir.—Those of us who know

the DHO (Downhill Only Club)

allowance. Furthermore, the initial allowance will be available for some time yet for properties located in enterprise zones. There is no restriction on the size of the properties located in such areas, and they may in some cases offer better prospects of capital growth than very small industrial units (up to 1,250 sq ft).

Mr Wolman also mentions the possibility of an investor realising the major part of his investment by granting a long lease out of his investment. It is true that there is a precedent for this (G. M. Mallon Ltd v Woods) but this case was heard some years ago, before the Courts embarked on their crusade against tax avoidance arrangements (see IRC v Romsey Ltd and Purfleet v Downson). Also, if the Inland Revenue could demonstrate that this had been planned from the very outset, it is possible that investors could be denied the benefit of the industrial buildings allowances altogether. These allowances are available for capital investments whereas, if an individual purchases an industrial building with the intention of realising almost all of his investment at the earliest possible opportunity, it is argued that the purchase of the building is revenue expenditure on which no allowances are due.

J. Hills

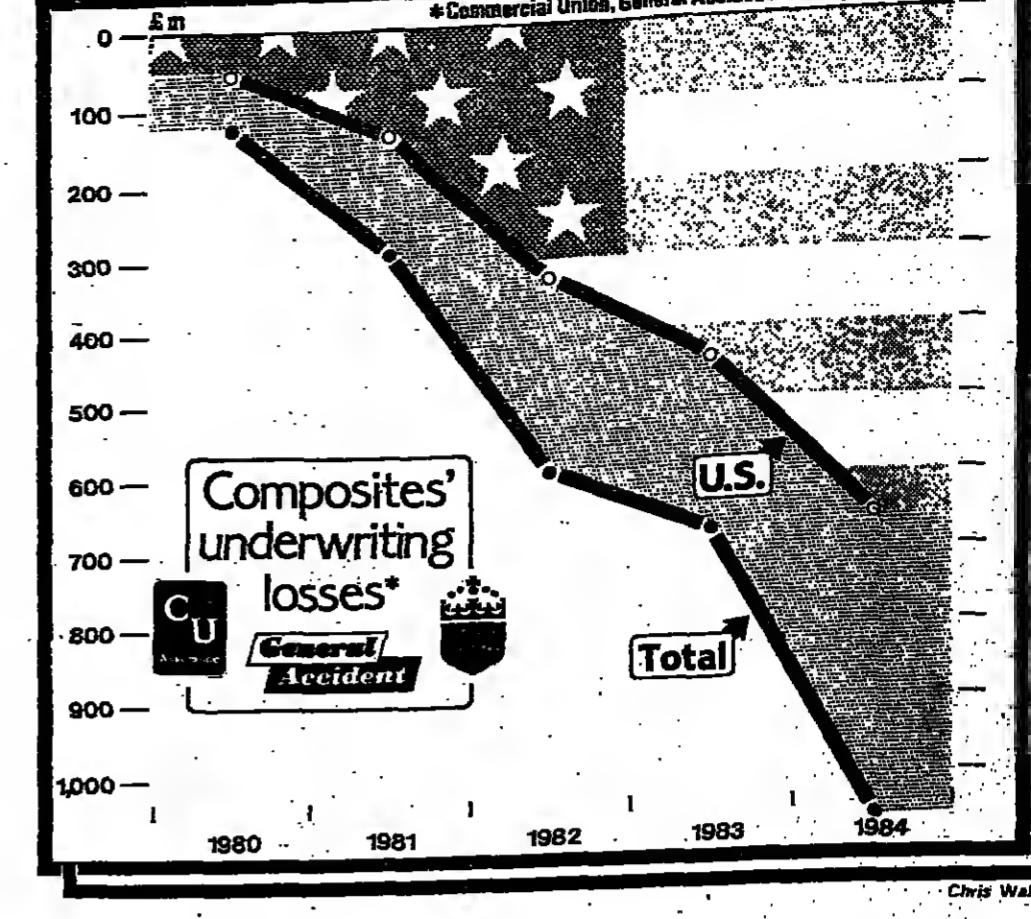
Ponnell Kerr Forster
78 Holton Garden, EC1

Tax-effective investments

From Mr J. Hills

Sir.—It may be worth clarifying two aspects of industrial investment mentioned in Clive Wolman's interesting article on tax-effective investments of February 23.

It is not quite correct to say that the small industrial workshop scheme will be withdrawn on March 26. An investor who purchases an unused building which was constructed before that date will continue to



risk on the extra 600 shares, a risk akin to that of a bear sale. In my view, the simplest protection for the small BT holder is the purchase alone of a traded put contract.

Keith Tunstall,
39, Grove Street,
Leamington Spa,
Worcestershire.

Diesel engine economy

From Mr D. Broome

Sir.—If Mr Davies (March 2) is correct in his view that high wages do not produce high levels of inflation, one need only look at the whole spectrum of national economies in the world to verify this fact. High unit labour costs, however, do produce high inflation and ultimately high unemployment. Mr Scott is wrong to vilify management who attempt to achieve satisfactory levels of unit labour costs by means of incentive schemes if they have tried other means and failed. There is surely nothing wrong in paving the highly productive more than the moderately productive. As has so often been said, unemployment is fuelled by the act of pricing oneself out of a job, not through high wages but through demanding payment too high for the level of productivity achieved. This applies at all levels in industry and commerce.

P. K. Brooks,
61, Kings Road, Berkhamsted,
Hertfordshire.

Call options caution

From Mr K. Tunstall

Sir.—May I add caution to Clive Wolman's stratagem (March 2) of writing call options and simultaneously buying put options to protect a BT holding retained for the purpose? A surge in the BT share price might result in the call options being exercised against the writer. This could force an early sale of the shares with forfeiture of the call option perks, the very event the stratagem was designed to prevent. The minimum unit that can be traded is one contract representing options on 1,000 of the underlying shares. It would not therefore be possible as suggested in the article, for a holder of only 400 BT to write a call option unless

Comparison of diesel and petrol Peugeot 305 Estate
Petrol Diesel 1.3 1.7
Constant 55 mph 45.6 61.4 23.8 22.0
Constant 75 mph 33.2 43.5 23.8 20.5
Urban cycle ... 29.7 44.8 21.3 27.0
Recorded use ...

WORLDWIDE TELEVISION

An evening with the satellite

By Raymond Snoddy

YOU WILL never hear Mike Stone say: "There's nothing on television tonight."

In the comfort of his farmhouse on the outskirts of Bristol he can switch from the Bolshoi ballet relayed by the Ghorizont satellite to Ehet, the religious channel beamed from Norway, or take a look at a football match in Brazil.

When relations with Libya were tense he took a look at Libyan television—"an invigorating experience"—and monitored Argentine television during the Falklands war.

Mr Stone estimates he has seen in all about 30 channels of television using his 1.4m and 2.4m satellite dishes in his garden.

Mr Stone is not a television freak. He is a director of a tiny company, Satellite Technology Systems, hoping to take advantage of what he believes is the inevitable spread of a new freedom and a new market.

This week it emerged that Ministers in Britain are on the verge of liberalising the regulations which prevent all but a few telecommunications organisations such as British Telecom and Mercury cable operators and researchers to put up satellite receiving equipment.

Stone believes that by the end of 1987 there could be as many as 60 channels of television being delivered by satellite in Europe and that the European market for the dish aerials and electronics to receive the pictures from space could be as high as £150m to £200m.

Mr Stone's company has only produced a handful of antennae for customers such as Bristol Polytechnic. But it is trying to raise equity finance of around £300,000 to try to tackle the European market.

The UK Government's plans include allowing individuals and businesses such as hotels and public houses to bring in the television signals from space—subject to minimum standards on interference and planning regulations.

It will also liberalise SMATV (satellite master antenna systems)—a dish delivering programmes to small existing cable networks or blocks of flats. The Government will, however, only allow SMATV to be developed in areas where no multi-channel cable franchise has been awarded.

The main reason for the change is to boost the market for the six channels of cable television programmes which have been set up in the past



Mr Stone at his Bristol home.

year. The Government has accepted that if the programme providers, who have invested in channels of films, sport, pop music, children's programmes and general entertainment, do not have a business, all hopes of a cable revolution would be dead.

It has also accepted that satellites recognise no frontiers and that you cannot ask policemen to look for satellite dishes among the hydrangeas.

Despite doubt over its legality, a market of more than 500,000 dishes grew up in the US before the Federal Communications Commission declared the practice legal.

A degree of liberalisation has already been introduced in France and is being considered in West Germany. Indeed, attempts to prevent EEC citizens receiving satellite broadcasts might be against the freedom of information provisions in the Treaty of Rome.

Mr Christopher Goodall, a communications consultant, has been working on SMATV for Thorn EMI, the largest individual UK provider of new programmes delivered by satellite.

He believes the UK market for SMATV will be worth £50m a year by 1987. About £20m of that will come from extra revenue for the programme providers, £15m for the installation and repair of equipment and another £15m for the equipment itself. Mr Goodall believes his figures are conservative.

But what will people see and how much will it cost?

A satellite dish of between 1.2 to 1.5m pointing at the European Communications Satellite (ECS) will soon be delivering ten channels—although some have their signals scrambled so that they can only be received on cable television networks.

They are:

- Sky, the advertising based general entertainment channel which this week became available in its 3 million home across Europe;
- TV5 from France; a joint effort by the Francophone countries, which is strong on arts and culture;
- Sat-1 and 3-Sat from Germany, offering German language general entertainment and cultural programmes;
- Teleclub of Switzerland, a film channel;
- RAI Italy's national channel 1;
- European Broadcasting Union's pan European channel which is due to start in September;
- Music Box, the pop music channel from the UK;
- Filmnet, a film channel involving Dutch channels;

Costs for satellites receiving equipment range from £1,500 to £2,500 in the 1.2-1.5m range. But the price could quite rapidly come down in volume production.

NEC Business Systems (Europe) is already selling the electronics for receiving equipment. Liberalisation could lead to mass production of systems in volume.

Satellite Communications (Sat-Tel) of Northampton says it is the largest British manufacturer and has already sold more than 200 systems.

"We are producing at the rate of 60 a month," Robin Crossley, Sat-Tel's technical sales manager said yesterday. The company has raised more than £500,000 from investors in Industry and Alta-Berkley. Turnover this year, he believes will top £2m.

"We don't need to wait for the BBC to pontificate on whether they are going to spend millions on DBS [direct broadcasting by satellite]. Satellite television and multi-channel reception are here now and people will go for it and the market will drive prices down," Mr Crossley said.

"In five or six years time, it will be as normal for people to have a small satellite dish as to have a video recorder," he added.

SIR KENNETH DURHAM, chairman of the British end of Anglo-Dutch Unilever, is the kind of earthy Northerner who delights in calling a spade a spade or a human stomach a gut.

"Just think of the amount of gut there is out there for metabolising food," he says in a strong Lancashire accent, waxing enthusiastic about the group's long-term sales prospects in the developing world. "It's huge."

This week he has had a more immediate reason for enthusiasm: Unilever, one of the world's largest businesses, with a turnover of £16bn and 560 operating companies, announced 1984 pre-tax profits up 20 per cent on 1983, pleasantly surprising the City.

The figures were seen as evidence that the tougher management style at the group, and its new emphasis on its core businesses—such as foods, detergents and personal products—is producing results.

Another possibility would be some sort of fee collection when the receiving equipment is sold.

Equipment companies are already viewing the new market with keen interest. Satellite TV Antenna Systems of Staines, Middlesex, believes their business could quadruple this year.

Mr Peter Gray, managing director, says under the present restrictive regulations turnover would probably be about £500,000 this year. Liberalisation could lift that to £2m.

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Sir Kenneth Durham

of Unilever

A blunt and sharp leader

By Martin Dickson



Sir Kenneth: calls a spade a spade

the troubled UK animal feeds

Committee decisions have to be unanimous. "There are differences, of course, and they are expressed strongly to get to the heart of the matter. Then we speak with one voice. It's a very powerful force, three guys saying the same thing in different parts of the world."

His own estimation qualities that have taken Kenneth to the top are the analytical powers need to cut through inessentials to the heart of the problem still leave time over the road of socialising and good work required of a Unilever chairman, the stamina to cope with competition.

The key messages going out now are fourfold. First, there is a concentration on the businesses Unilever knows and does best, shedding those companies that do not fit (12 have been sold in the past 12 months) and buying new ones that do, such as Brooke Bond, the tea company bought last year in a hotly contested takeover battle.

Second, since most of the company's Western markets are mature, knocking the competition is vitally dependent on a combination of strong research and development and a powerful marketing effort. Unilever, for example, is shaping up for a major battle this year with Procter and Gamble in the U.S. fabric softener market.

Third, there is a drive to compensate for the maturity of Western markets by winning new business in the Third World, with the booming economies of south east Asia a major target at present.

As Sir Kenneth explains: "If you double the discretionary income of a German, he's not going to spend it on soap. But an Indonesian might—and there are 120m people out there."

Fourth, there is a much greater emphasis on more forceful, intellectually able and more versatile management, right down the line. "A manager's

ability has got to be high," says Sir Kenneth, "you've got to keep a lot of it in the air, what with interest rates, exchange rates, and competition."

On his own estimation, qualities that have taken

Kenneth to the top are the analytical powers need to cut through inessentials to the heart of the problem still leave time over the road of socialising and good work required of a Unilever chairman, the tea company bought last year in a hotly contested takeover battle.

The special committee, whose deliberations are quietly known as "sitting together," consists of the chairmen of the British and Dutch parent companies plus a third person who will normally succeed one of the chairmen on retirement.

Sir Kenneth's colleagues both come from a marketing background: Mr Floris Maljers, the 51-year-old chairman of the Dutch company, has a reputation as an extremely tough operator who restructured the group's vital European edible oils division; Mr Michael Angus, the London company's vice-chairman, won his spurs turning Procter and Gamble in the U.S. fabric softener market.

The special committee might seem an executive instrument custom-designed to produce the kind of stodgy compromise Unilever cannot afford.

Sir Kenneth says this is not so. For one thing, the group has a system of decentralisation that allows subsidiaries to react quickly, as they must in sensitive consumer products markets.

As for longer-term strategy, the committee system is seen as a good means of balancing the need for change with the necessity for continuity. "You have to be very careful about changing the culture," says Sir Kenneth.

Weekend Brief

Knights joust over subsidies



Sir William Rees-Mogg... restrained approach

SIR WILLIAM REES-MOGG, chairman of the Arts Council (also governor of the BBC, antiquarian bookseller and editor of *The Times*) is not a fappable man. He takes a rational, serious, informed view of the world. He probably would have reached a very high rank in the Civil Service.

As things worked out, he is having an enjoyable time coping with the bruised egos and sensitive susceptibilities of the arts world, most notably crossing swords with the National Theatre's Sir Peter Hall, his second-most-important client.

After many years in which it took the part of the quiet, industrious retainer, the National Theatre suddenly has started to play up. It has seen its main rival, the Royal Shakespeare Company, receive much larger increases in subsidy by crying "crisis" and this year, faced with a rise in subsidy of less than 2 per cent, Sir Peter has rushed to the barricades on behalf of the National and perhaps in recognition of the fact that an Arts Council grant for 1985-86 was not exactly peanuts.

In short, Sir Peter is accusing the Government of plumping the arts, the glory of the nation, into despair and destitution and this week has rallied 50 theatres around the country to try to change Council policy.

Sir William's reaction is both to regret Sir Peter's impassioned rhetoric and to maintain that his own more restrained approach is better for the long-term funding of the arts. Sir William has a difficult job. On the one hand, he is in

favour of smaller Government spending, of a rolling back of the state; on the other, he thinks the arts are a special case, and should receive favours from the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

So he will point to a 20 per cent real increase in arts funding under the present Government and suggest that, if for this year there is a 2.5 per cent cut in real terms, any well-meaning arts company ought to be able to trim its spending in line. At the same time, he will argue, in the Arts Council Lecture, to be delivered on Monday, that the Government makes money from the arts over and above their vital role as an attraction for 12m overseas tourists.

Briefly, Sir William's case runs thus: last year, the National Theatre received £8.7m from the Government, while the Royal Shakespeare Company, private funding, box office, received £200m of the total went on salaries, providing about 25,000 jobs, which means £80m national insurance contributions. The £100m from the box office added £15m in VAT, so the Exchequer derived £75m from the arts.

Without priming from the Council, 20,000 jobs in the arts world probably would disappear, costing £50m in extra welfare benefits. So the Public Sector

Borrowing Requirement would be £25m higher if the Arts Council received no grant. In addition, there is the role of the arts in attracting tourist spending of £300m and, of equal importance, the contribution of the arts to the wellbeing not only of national pride, but also to individual development.

Sir William believes such arguments make more impression on the Government than the bleatings of arts administrators, faced with a minor cut in subsidy and lacking any popular support. His critics will reply that the Government does not seem to be responding to his strategy in the only way that matters—with extra money.

Sir William likes his posture as radical. With Luke Rittner, the council's secretary-general, he is switching available resources away from London and into the provinces. The National Theatre and the other London companies are moaning because £3m has been diverted to the regions in 1985-86.

Changing strategy so radically during a period of limited funding probably was not good timing, but subsidy is unlikely to increase under the present Government; and by going for a more democratic spread of aid, the council hopes to raise more money by quickening a response from local authorities.

Without priming from the Council, 20,000 jobs in the arts world probably would disappear, costing £50m in extra welfare benefits. So the Public Sector

Later this month, it will announce that its £3m has been matched by around £2.5m from regional authorities for joint funding schemes. With an internal review of the council's operations also under way, no one can say Sir William is acting like a conservative in his chairmanship.

But if Government penny-pinching has blunted the council's initiatives, the timing of its opponents could also be open to question. The real crunch for the arts will come next year when the metropolitan councils disappear and the Arts Council receives £16m extra from the Government to make up the short-fall. Sir William believes that this sum will be £3m less than is needed.

He also faces the problem of the South Bank in London. Much of the £16m will go towards establishing a new management authority there. The GLC, the present landlord, is unlikely to go for a smooth hand-over; in a year's time the Festival Hall, the Hayward, the National Film Theatre, and more could be the victims of politics.

But there is a chance that the reorganisation of the South Bank will help the National Theatre. A new authority could take the National's building under its wing; even Sir William acknowledges that the root of the theatre's problems is a structure that costs £2.3m a year to administer. Perhaps Sir Peter is wise in putting the National in the forefront of the public consciousness before the horse-trading begins.

But even before 1986, the GLC will make its presence felt on the arts. Next week, it will decide whether to continue to subsidise the Festival Hall, the National Theatre, ENO, and hundreds of smaller ventures. If it decides not to, the Arts Council will be quite unable to come up with any extra money. The Government will then have to decide whether it is prepared to rescue the deprived arts organisations, probably using the Arts Council as a conduit.

All this was deeply disturbing to Britain's paranoics, and it did not help allay their fears when Napoleon expressed interest in the concept. French soldiers. It was suggested, could slip over disguised as day

travellers.

Another Frenchman, Thomas de Gomont, proposed a scheme to block the Channel entirely, apart from three movable bridges that would allow ships to pass through. A further scheme involved placing a tube on the sea-bed in such a way that trains could freewheel all the way downhill before being winched up the final leg; how they were to make the return journey is a little obscure. Then there was the bridge that could be towed away and parked somewhere safe in the event of war.

Despite all this, the Channel Tunnel Association remains optimistic that the project will go off, but under the ground. Eventually.

Channel dream remains alive

Some of those attending the Tunnelling Exhibition at the Metropole, Brighton, will be just window-shopping. Next week, 50 companies from 11 countries will be showing off the latest models for boring tunnels and drilling; but among visitors there is one group—the Channel Tunnel Association—which will not be putting down any deposits.

The association has 70 members, individuals and organisations, and never has given up hope that a tunnel will be built. Long before the technology was anywhere near ready, the Channel had its enthusiasts, as the association's chairman, Sir David, pointed out.

Churchill College Archives Centre in Cambridge, they demonstrate that the long-running battle was not with the living rock so much as the dead hand of fear—xenophobia and financial insecurity.

It was a French engineer, Albert Mathieu, who in 1802 proposed using a tunnel to re-establish the physical link between Britain and France, lost during the Ice Age when the narrow isthmus was submerged. His idea was that an artificial island should be built to allow horses to be changed in mid-Channel, with ventilation being provided by chimneys sticking above the waves.

The hazards to shipping presented by this scheme do not bear thinking about; today, the Straits of Dover are a perpetual

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Antony Thorncroft
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Cheque Plus is designed to help you earn interest on money that is sitting idle in your current account.

UK COMPANY NEWS

Lloyds Bank up 11.7% to £468m

THE BIG four clearing banks results for 1984 were concluded yesterday by Lloyds' Bank's announcement of a £468m taxable profit, which approached the top end of City estimates.

This is an 11.7 per cent improvement over the previous year's £418m, and was achieved in spite of a £50m increase to £265m in the provision for bad and doubtful debts.

"The results are encouraging, given that we are still in the trough of the banking cycle, and have also had to absorb the impact of last year's UK Budget," says Sir Jeremy Morse, group chairman.

Domestic operations accounted for all of the improvements with



profits up by £58m to £228m, while the International side's contribution declined by £9m to £180m.

Domestic banking contributed "well over half" of Lloyds' taxable profits. Average current account balances increased by 9 per cent; although 7 day deposit balances fell by a similar amount, this was offset by an increase in balances on retail accounts paying higher rates of interest.

On the International side, Sir Jeremy says that operations were generally affected by low volume growth, with strong competition for quality business. Net interest income was up 20 per cent,

although interest margins were little changed.

The Budget cost Lloyds £485m below the line—£340m for deferred tax and the effect of reduced rentals from leases with tax variation clauses was £125m.

This charge was balanced by a transfer from reserves and minority interests, but the chairman says "fortunately our capital ratios were previously strong by both British and world standards."

"Even so," he says that "the ratio of our shareholders' funds to total assets was brought down from 6 per cent before the Budget to 4.7 per cent at the end of the year."

"It will take some time to restore this ratio to a higher level and with this in mind our prime objective must be to improve return on equity."

However, Sir Jeremy rules out the likelihood of a rights issue to strengthen Lloyds' capital position. Retained profits for 1984 were, after all, charges, £53m lower at £185m.

The shares at last night's close stood at 545p, a 17p rise on the day, capitalising the bank as the smallest of the four main clearers, at £1.26bn. To bring the share price more within the reach of the small investor the directors are proposing a one-for-four scrip issue.

Shareholders in effect are having their total dividend distribution increased by 11.6 per cent. A final of 17p makes a total of 26.5p compared to last year's 23.75p, which was adjusted for a one-for-five scrip.

Earnings fell from 115p to 89p per share after a higher tax charge of £231m against £136m. Commenting on the results,



Sir Jeremy Morse, chairman... the results are encouraging"

the chairman says that "the welcome recovery we have seen to an average growth rate of about 3 per cent in the major economies has done more for prosperous sectors and companies around the world than for those in difficulties."

"Hence our need to continue making provisions at an exceptionally high level for the third year running."

"We will," he says, "continue to devote our skills to managing the remaining problems, by ourselves or with other banks in the case of corporate debt, and in a larger co-operation with governments, central banks and the IMF in the case of country debt."

"The most important thing is

that the overall rate of recovery should be sustained, and this for longer-term social and economic reasons as well as for the short-term handling of debt."

He describes the situation in South America as "a long working out crisis, which has made some considerable advances during the past year."

Lloyd's level of £101m, against £58m, of specific international provisions in 1984 reflects the group's prudence, says Mr Brian Pitman, chief executive, though he concedes that if the U.S. economy were to grow by 4 per cent this year we may well find some of those provisions over prudent."

Specific domestic provisions rose from £37m to £63m, but the general account fell by £1m to £55m.

Mr Fred Crawley, deputy chief executive, says that although in the UK "we have seen many major companies improve their performance and profitability, I think a lot of small and medium sized businesses are still experiencing difficulties."

He adds that the consumer finance side is still showing the effects of high unemployment, though he points out that the impact of the miners strike is of overall business has been "very tiny."

Turning to the opportunities opening up in the securities industry, Sir Jeremy says the group is committed to developing by building up its own expertise and by recruitment, rather than by acquisition.

"We are going to approach it in a very cost-effective way," he says.

See Lex

David Lascelles on the big four clearers' 1984 results

The world is still a dangerous place

SOME PEOPLE might have been surprised to hear Sir Jeremy Morse, the chairman of Lloyds Bank, claim yesterday that: "We are still in the trough of the banking cycle." This week, the big four UK clearing banks managed to report a total increase in 1984 pre-tax profits of 12 per cent (20 per cent if Midland's Crocker-hit results are not counted), which is healthy by any standards.

But he has a point. The world is still a dangerous place for banks what with the Third World debt problem and—in the UK—the lingering effects of the last recession which brought a record rate of bankruptcies last year. Crocker National Bank's £223m loss may have been exceptional, but it shows what can happen when banks are not careful.

NatWest, Barclays and Lloyds thus ended up with fewer profits to plough back into the business and closed 1984 with weaker balance sheets. Barclays took steps to correct this with a £50m rights issue. Though none of the other banks have plans for early rights issues of their own, their need for more capital will be very much on the City's mind, particularly

since, by international standards, UK banks no longer rank as exceptionally strong.

The strong dollar was a problem because it greatly reduced the size of the balance sheets of the clearers who have a sizable portion of their assets in dollars. The banks have already taken the precaution of building dollars into their capital so that their ratios are not badly affected, but there were still some strains.

Third World debt is now "a problem rather than a crisis." Banks do not like to cut their pay-out except in extremes and all but Midland will keep their shareholders ahead of inflation. Midland held its dividend even though this meant dipping into its reserves at the end of the day.

NatWest, Barclays and Lloyds

took the extra precaution of topping up their general reserves as a cushion against unexpected shocks.

The bank's good pre-tax figures also told only part of the story. Last year's Budget landed the clearers with a massive extra tax bill, which left them with much lower profits to distribute after tax. NatWest's tax of £277m is believed to be the most ever paid in a single year by a UK bank.

This should have dictated a more cautious dividend policy. But banks do not like to cut their pay-out except in extremes and all but Midland will keep their shareholders ahead of inflation. Midland held its dividend even though this meant dipping into its reserves at the end of the day.

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plans for early rights issues of their own, their need for more capital will be very much on the City's mind, particularly

RESULTS DUE NEXT WEEK

R. Dutch/Shell dividend dilemma

The Royal Dutch/Shell Group will be reporting its preliminary results on Thursday against the background of impressive third quarter profits and some uncertainty about the dividend.

In terms of the payout, the recent radical currency movements favouring the U.S. dollar presents a sticky problem for the directors. In practice the dividend is calculated in sterling terms and then translated into Dutch guilders, the bulk of shareholders being historically resident in either the UK or Holland. But, over recent years the U.S. stake has built up and represents a fifth of the group's shareholders. Because of the strong dollar it would cost a lot more to keep the U.S. shareholders happy than the European shareholders. An interesting dilemma.

On the trading side production volumes should again be over the 1m barrels a day level in the fourth quarter given the completion of the maintenance programme. Downstream, in European refining, BP's results have reinforced the caution attached to margins, especially as there are few benefits to come through from cost savings. The range of forecasts for net income is between £3.5bn and £3.8bn on a historic basis and between £3.3bn and £3.8bn on a current cost of supply basis, which excludes stock profits.

Sedgwick Group

After a flat first half, insurance analysts are not expecting much from Sedgwick Group when it announces its preliminary profits on Thursday. Trading conditions have been difficult across the sector and Sedgwick's performance will mirror this, especially on the shipping side.

As London's largest broker, Sedgwick has traditionally led the league but lately it has been slipping back, mainly because it has no great capacity in the U.S. Overall, the City is expecting to see about £120m (£88m) pre-tax when the 1984 results are submitted to the stock exchange on Wednesday.

In the second half the company will have the additional burden of carrying some £3m costs for its new London headquarters. The general consensus is that the group will report profits of between £84m and £88m for the year, against £80m last time.

Guest Keen

In the first half of 1984 just 23 per cent of Guest Keen & Netterfold's operating profits came from the UK—in the second half it is expected to be even less with the overseas share buoyed by strong performances in West Germany and the U.S. and flattened on translation by the weakness of the pound. Automotive components are likely to show little improvement:

on the first half with UK strikes and a slow-down in car output in the U.S. cancelling out the impact of a recovery in West Germany after the I G Metall strike. Wholesale and industrial distribution should be ahead and industrial supplies and services is also expanding profitably.

Overall, the City is expecting to see about £120m (£88m) pre-tax when the 1984 results are submitted to the stock exchange on Wednesday.

TI Group

The City has been steered to expect the worst from TI Group's 1984 results due on Thursday. Profit forecasts have been cut back from over £30m pre-tax to under £20m ever since the company warned in October that there were serious problems with the Raleigh bicycle business in Nottingham. This group is now expected to have made about £15m pre-tax, against £16m last year.

Rowntree

Rowntree Mackintosh, the confectionery group, is expected to produce a good all-round set of figures for 1984, on Thursday. Some price rises in the UK should boost the second half after a rather dull first.

The main attraction at the moment is North America where the 1983 acquisitions of Toms Foods and Laura Secord continue to perform well. There

will be currency gains, but just how much is hard to gauge as the company's changing accounting practice and using average rates rather than year-end exchange rates.

Analysts forecast average around £74m, up from £61.4m, while the net dividend for the year could rise from 9.75p to 11p.

United Biscuits

The market expects United Biscuits to report reasonable progress in volume and profits in its UK businesses as it gradually broadens its product base away from the rather static biscuit market, to include snacks, frozen foods and fast food restaurants.

Heavy investment in the U.S., however—in products, particularly soft cookies, and in new markets as Keebler expand westwards—will limit profitability. Overall, U.K. will probably announce on Wednesday a fairly moderate increase on last year's pre-tax profit of £83.2m to around 98p to 98.5p.

On Tuesday, Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank, De Beers and Klemfow Benson Lonsdale will be reporting preliminary figures. Ulsterbank reports its final on Wednesday.

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Courtaulds in £28m disposal to U.S. group

By Martin Dickson

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See Lex

Dee's latest move fails to impress Booker board

BY ALEXANDER NICOLL

TRACK RECORD and earnings potential were stressed yesterday by Dee Corporation, the supermarket group, in the formal offer document for its £30m bid for Booker McConnell, the U.S. glass and chemicals group, for £28m.

The business, based at Ladywood, Birmingham, is profitable, employs 400 people and manufactures and markets coating for cars, car refinishing, commercial vehicles and the aviation industry. A substantial part of the operation depends on technology licenced from PPG, which is the world leader in automotive coatings and has no UK operations.

The Ladywood plant accounts for around 6 per cent of International Paint's £350m annual turnover.

Its sale is part of a general rationalisation of the world paint business, with manufacturers concentrating internationally on sectors in which they have particular expertise.

International Paint wants to concentrate its resources on its strongest businesses. It is the world market leader in marine coatings and also specialises in heavy duty coatings and coatings for yachts.

PPG, for its part, has been expanding its operations in Europe. While the UK car market will not provide it with a strongly growing domestic market for car paints, PPG's international position makes the acquisition attractive.

The deal also provides for the purchase by PPG of those parts of International Paint's Spanish and Italian subsidiaries in the car-refinish business.

CONFIRMING PROFITS of nearly £13m for 1984, a 6 per cent advance over the previous year, the directors of Hillsdown Holdings express their confidence

in

pre-

tax

profits

of

£13.2m

for

1985.

Although it is too early for them to give any clear indication of profits for the current year, they say management accounts of this food group for the first two months are encouraging. The company became public in mid-February.

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UK COMPANIES

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S COMPANY NEWS

Take-over bids and deals

The battle for House of Fraser, the Harrods stores group, dominated this week's bids and deals scene. Fraser is recommending acceptance of a £15m bid from Al-Fayed Investment and Trust, run by the three Al-Fayed brothers. They acquired a 29 per cent stake in Fraser last November from Lonrho. Fraser's long-time suitor.

However, the Monopolies Commission has concluded that a merger between Lonrho and House of Fraser would not be expected to operate against the public interest. Lonrho has requested that Mr Norman Tebbitt, the Trade and Industry Secretary, release it from other undertakings it had to increase its Fraser stake to more than 29.9 per cent. Mr Tebbitt is expected to announce his decision by about the middle of next week and, at the same time, he is expected to decide whether the Al-Fayed bid should be investigated.

Harrison and Crosfield, the plantations and chemicals group, increased the value of its bid for Pavis, a leading UK animal foods manufacturer, from £107m to £111m and described the offer as final. Pavis formally rejected the new bid on Thursday.

One of the City's least well-kept secrets, a share-exchange bid worth £24m by Williams Holdings for fellow engineering group J. H. & B. Jackson, was announced on Monday. Jackson described the offer as unsolicited and unwelcome and stated that it will be strongly opposed.

Blagden Industries has embarked on an ambitious expansion programme which involves the purchase of the European steel drum manufacturing companies of City Investing of New York. City, which is going into voluntary liquidation, has placed its 34 per cent equity interest in Blagden with institutional investors at 12p per share.

Company	Value of bid for	Value of share** price**	Market bid	Price before bid	Value in £m's**	Bidder
Prices in pence unless otherwise indicated.						
Barro Inds	782	85	66	4.30	CH Industrios	
Booths Inds	305	23	23	1.05	Prunnings Hse	
Booker McConnell	241	25	249	204.22	De Corp	
Butterfield-Hry	275	28	264	22.1	Technology Inc	
Dunlop	224	51	31	32.00	BTR	
E of Scot Onshore	77	91	66	5.5	Ind Fin & Inv Co	
Elson & Robbins	901	88	65	8.96	Hartons Grp	
Foster Bros	197	203	128	2.49	Ward White	
Haden	240	317	232	37.18	Trafalgar House	
Hoskins & Morton	3254	113	343	8.84	Lon & Mid Inds	
House of Fraser	400	403	346	320.82	Al Fayed Inv & Trust (Charles)	
Hurst (Charles)	200	190	190	4.32	Garvagh Secs	
Initial	5882	83	83	319.50	BET	
Jackson J. & H. B.	105	105	84	24.91	Williams Edge	
Lake & Elliott	801	77	651	7.95	Suter	
Leech (Wm)'	173	174	134	25.95	Beazer (C. H.)	
Lon & Mohr Secs	94	94	101	2.91	Areal Estates	
Manor National	1245	121	13	2.35	Bramall (C. D.)	
Martin (R. E.)	456	433	420	41.65	Quadrex	
Pauls	365	285	233	114.64	Harriss & Crisfield	
Petrolex	58	88	50	9.08	Clyde Petroleum	
Pratt (F.)	75	77	45	3.14	609 Group	
Secombe, Marshall	440	440	320	7.64	Citcorp	
String Guarantee	71	58	325	2.32	P & O	
Thames Inv & Sec Pl	5	44	43	0.20	Weber Hides	
TMG Group	125	75	75	1.67	Weber Hides	
Tootal	701	71	63	21.03	Smurfit (C. J.)	
Trident TV Ord	240	245	209	3.61	Pleasurama	
Trident TV 'A'	221	245	208	110.24	Pleasurama	
Unibond	221	222	155	1.56	Beecham	
Websters Group	1455	133	140	22.84	Oceptors Publishing	
Whittington	314	31	22	14.40	Aitken House	
All cash offer. * Cash alternative. † Partial bid. \$ Based on March 8 1985. ** At suspension. §§ Shares and cash. Related to NAV to be determined. Loan stock. ¶ Suspected.						

PRELIMINARY RESULTS

Company	Year to	Pre-tax profit (£'000)	Earnings* per share (p)	Dividends* per share (p)
Barclays	Dec	665,000 (557,000)	83.1 (84.8)	26.0 (24.0)
Barlow Blodis	Dec	7,490 (5,910)	10.6 (7.8)	4.85 (4.4)
Blagden Inds	Dec	2,970 (2,610)	— (—)	7.2 (6.8)
BP	Dec	1,260,000 (970,000)	76.8 (47.5)	30.0 (24.0)
British Vita	Dec	11,850 (10,600)	24.3 (22.0)	6.2 (5.36)
Bryant, Derek	Dec	1,450 (1,180)	29.3 (24.9)	7.85 (6.0)
BSR	Dec	26,800 (20,775)	15.3 (11.5)	2.4 (2.0)
BTR	Dec	284,000 (171,000)	36.6 (35.4)	13.0 (8.5)
Cabry, Schweppes	Dec	124,000 (1,069,000)	15.7 (13.0)	5.9 (5.4)
Cement Roadstone	Dec	17,150 (7,770)	2.1 (4.1)	2.7 (2.44)
Comm Union	Dec	72,800 (9,300)	— (—)	11.8 (11.8)
Corah	Dec	3,110 (2,680)	7.2 (7.2)	4.0 (3.7)
Cronch, Derek	Dec	1,760 (1,886)	14.6 (1.6)	5.89 (5.08)
Davies & Met	Dec	335 (623)	— (—)	2.21 (2.21)
DJ Sec Alaraz	Oct	99 (210)	2.8 (3.7)	1.3 (1.0)
Fed Housing	Dec	1,250 (1,130)	8.4 (8.4)	3.0 (—)
General Acc.	Dec	3,900 (6,600)	5.9 (37.0)	20.0 (19.0)
Hawley Group	Dec	31,490 (42,250)	11.4 (6.8)	1.86 (1.58)
Heywood Will	Dec	2,510 (2,350)	18.4 (31.7)	6.0 (5.8)
Jayplant	May	39 (44)	1.3 (1.5)	0.25 (—)
Jebsons Drill	Feb	3,320 (1,400)	(30.7)	— (—)
Johnstones Paint	Dec	1,200 (1,930)	11.2 (13.3)	4.0 (4.0)
Jourdan, T.	Dec	837 (672)	9.2 (7.4)	6.3 (6.78)
Lex Services	Dec	46,800 (38,000)	34.7 (38.0)	10.6 (10.6)
Midland Bank	Dec	126,000 (22,000)	27.1 (60.6)	25.5 (25.5)
Nat West	Dec	61,000 (61,000)	85.0 (50.0)	28.24 (16.34)
Nationwide Leis	Oct	5,520 (4,001)	3.4 (2.8)	0.5 (0.28)
Powerline Int'l	Dec	1,532 (1,527)	5.8 (5.2)	2.7 (2.4)
Prov Fin Group	Dec	19,400 (17,600)	22.7 (22.6)	10.5 (10.0)
Ransomes Sims	Dec	5,210 (2,130)	62.0 (37.1)	20.0 (15.0)
Royal Insurance	Dec	11,200 (9,400)	— (—)	23.75 (22.8)
Ryan Int'l	Dec	587 (2,520)	— (—)	4.62 (4.2)
Tech for Bus	Dec	313 (372)	— (—)	4.62 (4.2)
Unilever	Dec	924,000 (769,000)	133.8 (102.8)	35.52 (30.86)
Woodhouse & Rix	Dec	262 (444)	— (—)	1.0 (0.75)

INTERIM STATEMENTS

Company	Half-year to	Pre-tax profit (£'000)	Interim dividends* per share (p)
AAH Holdings	Dec	6,670 (6,650)	2.67 (2.43)
Arlen Elect	Sept	148L (1167L)	— (—)
Brahma Miller	Dec	46S (207L)	0.66 (10.4)
Compeco Holdings	Sept	202 (1690)	— (—)
Courtney Pope	Nov	800 (580)	3.0 (2.0)
Galliford	Dec	1,270 (1,020)	1.0 (0.7)
Medminster	Dec	241 (1791)	1.95 (1.75)
Plastics Tech Mar	Nov	350 (1425)	— (—)
Resource Tech	Oct	277 (647)	— (—)

* Dividends are shown net per share except where otherwise indicated. † For nine months. L Loss.

Rights Issues

Glass Glover—To raise £7.35m through a one for three rights issue at 23p.

Ryan International—To raise £0.755m through a one for three rights issue at 1p per share.

Barclays—To raise £0.507m through a one for 100 rights issue at 150p per share.

Offers for sale, placings and introductions

Blagden Industries—Placing of 8m shares at 112p per share. Half are reserved for shareholders who are guaranteed three new shares for every 10 held. Also offer for sale by tender of 5.95m shares at a minimum price of 112p.

Bournemouth and District Water—Raising £1m through an issue of 123 per cent stock 1985 at 1p.

BTS Group—USM placing of 1.23m shares at 82p per share.

Falcon Industries—Placing of 5.74m new shares at 35p per share.

ICI—To raise £148.5m through a placing of 18m new shares at 82.5p per share.

Mann and Co—Offer for sale by tender of 6.66m shares at a minimum price of 125p.

Mid Kent Water—Raising £1m through an issue of 123 per cent stock 1985 at 1p. Plus 5.5m through an issue of 123 per cent debenture stock 2005 at 1p.

Cement-Roadstone—Placing of 15.6m new ordinary shares at 64p to raise £9.984m.

Highland Participants—Private placing of 1.25m shares at 150p to raise £1.57m.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES and FINANCE

Brazilian state to sell 18% stake in Fiat Automoveis

BY ANDREW WHITLEY IN RIO DE JANEIRO

THE Minas Gerais state government has put up for sale its 18 per cent shareholding in Fiat Automoveis, the Brazilian vehicle manufacturing subsidiary of Fiat SpA, for which the government believes that now is the right time to get out.

The moment is "opportune and favourable," said Sr Jose Geraldo Ribeiro, a state government minister, and on Thursday that interest had already been shown by an unnamed Japanese concern and by the Kuwait Investment Fund. "We hope to realise the sale as rapidly as possible," he said.

After running up accumulated losses of \$600m in its first seven years of operation, to 1983, Fiat Automoveis is expected to show an after-tax profit on its 1984 balance-sheet.

The cash-strapped state government has steadily reduced its shareholding in the company — into which it has ploughed \$370m — from 54 per cent in 1984 to 35 per cent in 1985.

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St. James Estates PLC ("the Company") has not yet started business and has no established trading record. If you have any doubt about this document you should consult a stockbroker, licensed dealer, bank manager, solicitor or other professional adviser. This document has been prepared for the purpose of giving information with regard to the Company. The Directors of the Company have taken all reasonable care to ensure that the facts stated herein are true and accurate in all material respects and that there are no other material facts the omission of which would make misleading any statement herein whether of fact or opinion. All the Directors accept responsibility accordingly. No application has been made for listing of or dealing in the Ordinary Shares of 25p each of the Company on any Stock Exchange or other securities market. Two copies of this document having attached thereto the documents specified herein, have been delivered to the Registrar of Companies for registration.

ST. JAMES ESTATES PLC

(Incorporated in England and Wales under the Companies Acts 1948-81 No. 1841294)

DIRECTORS, SECRETARY AND OFFICES

DIRECTORS

ANDREW JOHN LANGTON Chairman
440 Kings Road, London SW10 0LH
JACK COLLIS, FRICS, FCA, Art.
9, Clifford Street, London WIX 2A1
LEONARD PHILLIPS Joint Managing Director
55 Grosvenor Street, London WIX 2DE
DAVID WILLIAM ELIAS Joint Managing Director
10, Cadogan Gardens, London SW3 2RS
JEREMY PHILIP GORMAN, FCA, Finance Director
25, Connaught Square, London WC2H 9EL

SECRETARY AND REGISTERED OFFICE
Jeremy Philip Gorman, FCA,
Apollo House, 56, New Bond Street, London W1Y 9DG
HEAD OFFICE OF THE COMPANY
55, Grosvenor Street, London WIX 2DE

ADVISERS

PROPERTY ADVISERS KEITH CARDALE GROVES, Chartered Surveyors,
43 North Audley Street, London W1Y 2AQ

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS BOVIS CONSTRUCTION LIMITED,
Bovis House, Northolt Road, Harrow, Middlesex HA2 0EE

FINANCIAL ADVISERS UNITED TRUST & CREDIT PLC,

55, Grosvenor Street, London WIX 2DE

BANKERS BARCLAYS BANK PLC,

415 Strand, London WC2R 2PS

AUDITORS AND REPORTING ACCOUNTANTS CLARK WHITCHILL, Chartered Accountants,
25, New Street Square, London EC4A 3LN

SOLICITORS TO THE COMPANY JEFFREY GREEN AND RUSSELL,
Apollo House, 56, New Bond Street, London W1Y 9DG

SOLICITORS TO THE SPONSOR NABARRO NATHANSON,
76, Jermyn Street, London SW1Y 5NR

SPONSOR AND LICENSED DEALER UTC SECURITIES MANAGEMENT LIMITED,
55, Grosvenor Street, London WIX 2DE 01-499 0223

REGISTRARS AND TRANSFER OFFICE W. H. STENTPORD & CO.,
Woodland House, Collingwood Road, Witton, Essex CM8 2TS

DEFINITIONS

"the Company" St. James Estates PLC

"UTC" United Trust & Credit PLC

"Securities" UTC Securities Management Limited

"CEM" Corporate Estates Management Limited

"Business Expansion Scheme" established by the Finance Act 1983 (as amended)

"Ordinary Shares" Ordinary Shares of 25p each of the Company

SUMMARY

The following information must be read in conjunction with the full text of this document.

BUSINESS

The Company will develop and restore to high standards residential property in prime locations in London.

ASSETS

The Company will operate in prime areas of London where growth in property values in recent years has exceeded the rate of inflation. The Company's assets will consist of property in the course of development and restoration and cash.

The tangible net asset value per Ordinary Share assuming full subscription and full dilution is 54.9p.

DIRECTORS

The Board has considerable experience of the London residential property market and in particular of site selection and profitable development.

ADVISERS

Keith Cardale Groves, a London firm of Chartered Surveyors, will review each project prior to commencement. Bovis Construction Limited will assist the Board as Design and Construction Managers.

BUSINESS EXPANSION SCHEME

Individual subscribers should, subject to certain conditions, receive income tax relief at their highest rates of tax for the year ending 5th April 1985. The effect is illustrated below:

Highest rate of tax applicable	Effective cost per Ordinary Share
60%	24p
.50%	30p
30%	42p

MERCHANTABILITY

An Over-the-Counter market in the Ordinary Shares will be made by UTC Securities Management Limited.

INTRODUCTION

Over the last 40 years the value of residential property in prime areas of London has appreciated at a rate which has exceeded that of inflation. This has been generated by strong demand exceeding a limited supply of suitable properties.

Steady domestic demand has been reinforced by overseas buyers who seek to acquire houses and apartments as alternatives to hotel accommodation or as investments. London is regarded by many overseas buyers as a safe and civilised city in which to live, in a country which enjoys political stability. The fall in the value of sterling against many foreign currencies in the last few years has enhanced the attractiveness of London property.

Further demand has come from international companies who seek to purchase accommodation for their executives here in view of the cost and scarcity of rented accommodation.

This Offer for Subscription provides an opportunity to invest in an asset based company whose business will be the development of residential property for sale and which should enable individual investors, depending on their circumstances, to obtain income tax relief on their investment for the year ending 5th April 1985.

PROPOSED BUSINESS

The Company intends to establish a property development business with specific objectives. The funds subscribed will be directed towards the development and restoration to high standards of residential property in prime locations in London. The Board may on occasion consider developments in highly regarded residential areas outside London.

The Directors expect to undertake a limited number of high value projects which would normally be beyond the reach of many smaller developers.

Particular attention will be directed to:

- Restoration of existing apartments and houses
- Development of new high quality residences
- Redevelopment of residential portfolios held by institutions on a joint venture basis
- Development of the residential element forming part of commercial projects.

Generally, projects undertaken will involve a substantial construction element in order to ensure that the Company's activities will constitute a qualifying trade for BES purposes.

It is anticipated that the Board, with its wide and varied experience of London residential property, will be able to identify properties in the best locations for development.

Keith Cardale Groves, a London firm of Chartered Surveyors, has been engaged to review each project, prior to its commencement, for the Board's consideration.

The Directors will ensure that building projects are managed efficiently with reliable cost, timing and quality control and, to assist, have engaged the services of Bovis Construction Limited to act as Design and Construction Managers.

The Directors believe that trading risks associated with residential property development can be significantly reduced by funding development costs largely from the Company's own resources. Accordingly, the Directors intend to limit borrowings in relation to each project and, overall, to a level which will not exceed the value of shareholders' funds.

It is the Directors' opinion that their approach will provide a high degree of stability to the Company. Limited dependence on loan finance should give considerable flexibility in the timing of sales.

The Directors believe that there are good opportunities for a company with a sound equity base and an experienced and professional board concentrating on residential development in prime areas of London. It is intended that the Company will consider making an application for a dealing facility on the Unlisted Securities Market of the Stock Exchange when appropriate.

The Directors believe that the development programme they intend to undertake will create work and employment opportunities for the building and allied trades.

Offer for Subscription

Under the Business Expansion Scheme

of up to

10,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each

at a price of 60p per share

Sponsored by

UTC Securities Management Limited

(Licensed Dealer in Securities)

The Subscription List opened at 10.00 a.m. on 18th February 1985 and may close at any time hereafter but not later than 3.00 p.m. on 15th March 1985.

SHARE CAPITAL

Authorised Issued Fully Paid
23,000,000 In Ordinary Shares of 25p each £2,625,000

In addition there are Warrants in existence which give the holders thereof the option to subscribe for a further 500,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each at 60p per share.

The Ordinary Shares now offered rank in full for all dividends hereafter declared or paid on the Ordinary Share capital of the Company.

INDEBTEDNESS

At the close of business on the day prior to the date of issue of this document the Company did not have any loan capital (including term loans) outstanding or any such capital created but unissued, and had no mortgages, charges or borrowings or indebtedness in the nature of borrowing, including bank overdrafts, liabilities under acceptances (other than normal trade bills) or acceptance credits, hire-purchase commitments, guarantees or similar contingent liabilities.

DIRECTORS, MANAGEMENT AND PREMISES

The Directors of the Company are as follows

ANDREW LANGTON (Non-Executive) aged 41, is the founder and Managing Director of Aylesford & Company (Estate Agents) Limited. The firm was formed in 1967 and has a reputation for handling high quality residential property at each of its three offices in Chelsea, Kensington and Wimbledon.

JACK COLLIS (Non-Executive) aged 62, is a Consultant Partner at De Groot Collis, a firm of Estate Agents and Valuers which has been established for 50 years. The firm has four offices in London handling a full range of property and their Knightsbridge office handles residential property in central London.

LEONARD PHILLIPS, aged 50, has been engaged in property investment and development for over 30 years. He has been a Director of A. J. Hines & Co. Limited and Suburban and City Holdings Limited and in recent years has concentrated his activities on the acquisition of high quality properties in London. He is a Director of UTC Trading Corporation PLC and Corporate Estates Properties Limited.

DAVID ELIAS, aged 34, is Chairman of Anglo-City Property Group Limited and a director of Park Commercial Developments PLC. He has been engaged in residential and commercial property development and investment since 1970. He is a Lloyds' Underwriting Member.

JEREMY GORMAN, aged 37, is a Chartered Accountant, Finance Director of the Company and a director of UTC Management Services Limited, a subsidiary of UTC, through which office he acts as a finance director of a number of other public companies.

The day to day business of the Company will be managed by Leonard Phillips and David Elias. In addition services will be provided by CEM under the terms of an Agreement details of which are set out in paragraph 5 of Appendix IV. CEM is a company owned by Corporate Estates Properties Limited and Anglo-City Property Group Limited. CEM will arrange the selection and purchase of property and any financing required, direct the Design and Construction Managers and handle the marketing promotion and sale of developments. Leonard Phillips and David Elias have agreed to make available whatever time is needed to fulfil their duties and have undertaken to offer to the Company all potential residential property developments identified by them which are suitable for the business of the Company.

For its services CEM shall be entitled to an annual fee at the rate of 2½ per cent. of the net asset value of the Company and a further fee equal to 20 per cent. of the net profit of each development payable upon realisation of such profit by the Company.

The business of the Company will be conducted from premises at 55 Grosvenor Street, London W1, which it occupies under an agreement with UTC, and will bear an equitable proportion of the costs. It is anticipated that this will not exceed £2,000 in the period to 31st December 1985.

PROPERTY ADVISERS

The Company has retained Keith Cardale Groves, a London firm of Chartered Surveyors, as property advisers.

They will be requested to assist the Board in reviewing the profitability of potential developments. Anthony Marge, FRICS, FSA, who is senior partner of the firm, has considerable experience in advising on all forms of residential property development and will personally supervise the work done by his firm.

DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGERS

The Directors will maintain close supervision, cost and quality control over the Company's construction activities. They will be assisted by Bovis Construction Limited in their capacity as Design and Construction Managers.

The Bovis group have major interests in private housing and international construction and are owned by the Pernod and Oriental Steam Navigation Company P&O. Bovis has particular expertise in the construction and development of high quality residential property. They will provide a professional team including architects, quantity surveyors, engineers and construction managers. Construction will be carried out by specialist sub-contractors selected on a competitive basis.

OFFER FOR SUBSCRIPTION

The Company has, at the date hereof, a paid up share capital of £125,000. The Directors, UTC and associates hold a total of 500,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each, for which they subscribed in cash at par.

The Company has entered into an agreement details of which are contained in paragraph 2 of Appendix IV with Securities whereby Securities has agreed to use its best endeavours to procure subscribers for up to 10,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each for subscription at 60p per share. Securities will be paid a fee for this service of 4½ per cent. of which it may pay commissions of up to 3½ per cent. to stockbrokers and recognised agents. The Offer for Subscription referred to herein is the subject of a prospectus, substantially in the form of this document, dated 14th February 1985.

The whole of the net proceeds of the Offer for Subscription will be received by the Company. Subject to the minimum subscription being raised, the Company will start its proposed business of residential development as soon as possible. The number of developments to be undertaken initially will depend largely on the amount of capital raised by this Offer. Pending full utilisation of the proceeds for such developments, surplus monies will be placed on deposit with the Company's bankers.

UNITED TRUST & CREDIT PLC

UTC is the holding company of a diversified financial and commercial group. The group is involved in new issues, the Unlisted Securities and Over-the-Counter Markets, acting as a market maker, and corporate and financial advice, engines in commercial lending and investment management. An associated company, UTC Trading Corporation PLC, is an investment holding company with residential and commercial property interests. Corporate Estates Properties Limited, a wholly-owned subsidiary of UTC Trading Corporation PLC, is managed by Leonard Phillips and is a promoter and shareholder in the Company.

UTC will receive a fee in connection with the Offer for Subscription and has undertaken for a period of five years, to provide to the Company financial and corporate advice. Another subsidiary, UTC Management Services Limited will provide the Company with the services of a Finance Director and Secretary.

The existing shareholders including UTC and its associates hold warrants to subscribe for a further 500,000 Ordinary shares at the Offer for Subscription price of 60p per share before 31st December 1990. Upon exercise of the warrants these interests would represent approximately 9 per cent. of the issued share capital of the Company, assuming full subscription.

WORKING CAPITAL

No shares will be allotted pursuant to this Offer for Subscription unless a minimum of 1,000,000 Ordinary shares are subscribed for on or before the closing date for application. Applications have been received for Ordinary shares in excess of this minimum number and at the date hereof none of such shares have been allotted or agreed to be allotted. Taking into account the minimum net proceeds of the Offer for Subscription, the Board considers that the Company will have sufficient working capital for its present requirements.

The Directors believe that the Company will be able to secure development finance on reasonable terms when required.

PROFITS AND DIVIDENDS

The Company has no trading record and it is not possible to make any forecast of profits. The intention of the Directors is to undertake developments which will show a return of at least 20 per cent. per annum on the shareholders' funds invested by the Company. The Directors consider that the profits after tax generated by the Company should be retained during the early years and applied in expanding its activities. Accordingly, investors are advised not to anticipate early dividend payments although it is intended to start such payments when it is commercially prudent to do so.

PRO-FORMA BALANCE SHEET

There is set out below a Pro-forma Balance Sheet of the Company as at the date hereof prepared on the basis of full Subscription.

APPENDIX II
Letter regarding the Business Expansion Scheme



Clark Whitehill
Chartered Accountants

23 New Street Square, London EC4A 3LN Telephone 01-333 1577 Telex 857422
Offices and associated firms in major cities throughout the United Kingdom, Europe and the world.

16 February 1985

The Directors
St. James Estates PLC
55 Grosvenor Street
London W1X 9DB
Gentlemen,

The Directors
UTC Securities Management Limited
55 Grosvenor Street
London W1X 9DB

St. James Estates PLC ("the Company")

You asked us to obtain confirmation from H.M. Inspector of Taxes that the Company's trade will be a qualifying trade for the purposes of the relief afforded by Section 24 and Schedule 5 of the Finance Act 1983 - Business Expansion Scheme Reliefs.

The Inspector has given provisional confirmation that on the information currently available, the Company's activities will constitute a qualifying trade for such purposes. The Ireland Revenue clearance is provisional and formal approval can only be given when the Company has submitted a formal statement to the Ireland Revenue as required by the legislation.

Yours faithfully,

Clark Whitehill

Clark Whitehill, Accountant, Clark Whitehill, Chartered Accountants, 23 New Street Square, London EC4A 3LN, Telephone 01-333 1577, Telex 857422, Office and associated firms in major cities throughout the United Kingdom, Europe and the world.

APPENDIX III

Abridged Particulars of Business Expansion Scheme ("BES")

(a) Introduction

The BES was established by the Finance Act 1983 (as amended) with a view to encouraging investment in unquoted companies (i.e. companies which are not quoted on the Stock Market or dealt in on the Unlisted Securities Market) by enabling the investor to claim the cost of his investment as a deduction from his taxable income.

The following is merely a summary of the Directors' understanding of the complex provisions and neither they nor the Company express any opinion as to whether individual investors will be able to obtain relief under the BES nor can they guarantee that the Company will qualify or continue to qualify. Any individual who intends to obtain such relief should consult his own professional adviser.

(b) Tax Relief

The relief is given at the investor's highest rate of tax. The following example illustrates the effect of relief under the BES on a qualifying investor subscribing for 10,000 Ordinary shares at a subscription cost of £6,000 on the assumption that he incurs no other costs in respect of the investment.

Investor's highest rate of tax	Relief	Net cost of investment	Net cost per share
50%	£3,000	£2,400	24p
40%	£2,400	£1,800	18p
30%	£1,800	£1,200	12p
20%	£1,200	£800	8p
10%	£600	£400	4p

The maximum amount for which an individual investor relief for all his qualifying investments is £6,000 per annum for each of the four tax years beginning with 1983/84. For the purpose of this example living together are treated as one. Relief can only be obtained on investments of at least £250 in any one company in the tax year for which relief is sought.

The fact that relief is obtained under the BES will not affect the investor's base cost for Capital Gains Tax on a disposal of the shares unless the sales proceeds are less than the gross cost of the investment when, normally, he will be deemed to have made no gain or loss on the disposal so that there will be no allowable loss for Capital Gains Tax purposes.

(c) Conditions

In order for the investor to obtain the relief under the BES, various conditions have to be fulfilled.

(d) Conditions relating to the nature of the Company and its business

The Company must have been incorporated in the United Kingdom and be registered on the Unlisted Securities Market. It must not be listed on the Stock Exchange or the Unlisted Securities Market. It must not be a subsidiary or be controlled by another company and any subsidiaries it has must be wholly owned. All its share capital must be fully paid up. It must carry on a qualifying trade or exist to hold all the shares in its subsidiaries which themselves must all carry on qualifying trades.

The trade must be conducted on a commercial basis and with a view to the realisation of profit.

The trade of property development is acceptable provided it involves elements of substantial reconstruction of property and not involving that it involves the sale and purchase of land.

On the basis of law and other relevant circumstances existing at the date of the Prospectus, the Directors believe that the Company and its business will fall within the conditions imposed under the BES and that new Ordinary shares to be issued pursuant to the Prospectus will be shares eligible for relief under the BES.

(e) Conditions relating to the investor

The investor must be resident and ordinarily resident in the United Kingdom at the time of issue of the shares, subscribe for the shares on his own behalf (joint subscriptions are excluded) through a nominee (i.e. an approved Investment Fund), and neither the investor nor any associate of the investor must be connected with the Company (except as a shareholder) for a period prior to the issue of the shares and for five years thereafter. A person will be regarded as connected with a Company if he controls the Company or owns more than 30 per cent. of the ordinary share capital or loan capital of the Company. For the avoidance of doubt, an associate includes a spouse, son, daughter, minor ancestor or descendant, a partner and certain persons with whom the investor carries on a business through a trust.

To avoid any doubt, where a person is a part of the investor claimed, these must be held for at least five years from their date of issue by the investor. Relief may also be withdrawn if the circumstances of the individual investor change within a period of five years of those of the Company change within a period of three years from the date of issue of the shares.

It should be noted that although the subscription by investors of new Ordinary shares under this Offer for Subscription may qualify for tax relief, any purchase of Ordinary shares subsequent to this Offer for Subscription will not be eligible for relief.

The Directors do not intend to take steps which would to their knowledge result in a disallowance of relief without first obtaining the sanction of a Special Resolution of the Company in general meeting.

(f) Claims for Tax Relief

No claim for relief may be made until four months after the trade of the Company commences but relief will be given in the year of assessment during which the shares are issued (and not the year in which the claim is made or the trade commences). Such claim for relief must be made no later than two years after the end of the tax year in which the shares are issued, or, if later, within two years after the end of the first four months of trading.

The investor has to make his own claim for relief to his Inspector of Taxes but the claim must be supported by a certificate issued by the Company certifying that the conditions for relief, so far as they apply to the Company and its business, are satisfied in relation to the investor's shares. Once the Company has received authority from the Ireland Revenue to issue the certificates the Company will issue the certificates upon application by investors subject to the provisions by letter of each application to the Company may request.

APPENDIX IV

Statutory and General Information

1. The Company

The Company was incorporated under the name Jevings 102 Public Limited Company with registered number 1841842 on 10th January 1981 under the Companies Acts 1948 to 1981 as a public limited company with an authorised share capital of £1,000,000 divided into 100,000 Ordinary Shares of £1 each, of which such shares being issued at par to the two executors to the Memorandum of Association.

On 7th February 1985 the Company changed its name to its present name.

On 25th February 1985 each Ordinary Share of £1 in the capital of the Company was subdivided into 4 Ordinary Shares of 25p each, the authorised share capital of the Company was increased from £1,000,000 to £1,000,000 by the creation of further 11,999,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each and the Directors were authorised generally and unconditionally to allot of any part of the share capital remaining in respect of which the pre-emption provisions imposed by Section 17 of the Companies Act 1960 were dispensed.

On 8th February 1985 250,000 Ordinary Shares were allotted for cash at par as follows:

Name of Allottee	No. of Ordinary Shares
David Ellis	200,000
Andrew Langton	20,000
Jack Clegg	20,000
Andy Green	20,000

On 12th February 1985 248,000 Ordinary Shares were allotted for cash at par as follows:

Name of Allottee	No. of Ordinary Shares
UTC Securities Management Limited	80,000
Corporate Estates Properties Limited	80,000
David Phillips	20,000

The Company obtained a certificate to do business pursuant to Section 4 of the Companies Act 1960 on 12th February 1985.

Immediately following completion of the Offer for Subscription, on the assumption that the Ordinary Shares are taken up in full, the issued and fully paid share capital of the Company will consist of 10,500,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each.

There are 500,000 Warrants outstanding as of the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Company at 60p per share at the time within the period of 30 days immediately following the Annual General Meeting of the Company at each of the years 1985 to 1986 inclusive. Full particulars of the Warrants are set out in paragraph 6 of this Appendix IV.

Sale as disclosed herein or in consequence of the exercise of rights attaching to the Warrants, no material issue of shares of the Company (other than consents upon offer to shareholders pro rata to their existing shareholding) will be made within one year of the date of this document without prior approval of the Company in general meeting.

2. Sponsorship Agreement

Under an Agreement between the Company, the Directors, and Corporate Estates Properties Limited and Securities, the Company has agreed to offer for subscription 10,000,000 Ordinary Shares at 60p per share and Securities has agreed to use its best endeavours to procure purchasers of all the Ordinary Shares comprised in this Offer for Subscription. Under the agreement the Directors have given various warranties concerning the Company and the contents of this document. Securities will receive compensation at 4% per cent. (excluding VAT) on the amount subscribed of which it may be payable to compensation up to 4% per cent. (excluding VAT) to stockholders and recognised agents. No commissions are payable to the minimum subscription is not reached.

3. Summary of Certain Provisions of the Articles of Association

The Articles of Association ("the Articles") of the Company adopted on 8th February 1985 contain provisions, inter alia, to the following effect:

Subject to the restrictions mentioned below and to any special rights or restrictions as to voting attached to any shares of the Company with the Articles, on a show of hands every member present in person and entitled to vote shall have one vote only in the event of a poll every member present in person or by proxy and to vote shall have one vote for every one share held by him. A shareholder may be required to give notice to the Company of any interests in the Company's issued Ordinary Shares held by him. If he should fail to give the necessary information to the shareholder within 15 days of the date of the notice, he will be liable to pay the necessary information to the Company. In the event of a poll every member present in person or by proxy and to vote shall have one vote for every one share held by him at any general meeting of the Company. Note in otherwise determine ("entitled to vote", in respect of shares held by him, at any general meeting of the Company). Note in otherwise determine ("entitled to vote", in respect of shares held by him, at any general meeting of the Company).

Variation of Class Rights

Subject to the provisions of Section 72 of the Companies Act 1948, any special rights attached to any class of shares may be varied or abrogated either with the consent in writing of the holders of not less than three fourths in the aggregate of the issued shares of that class or with the written resolution of shareholders of one third of the share capital of the Company at present consists entirely of shares of one class.

Directors

(a) There is no shareholding qualification for Directors of the Company.

(b) The Directors are subject to retirement at the first Annual General Meeting after reaching the age of seventy years but are eligible for re-election up to their sixtieth birthday.

(c) The aggregate fees of the Directors shall not exceed £20,000 per annum or such higher amount as the Company may determine.

(d) The Directors are free to offer to their appointees of them to be the holder of executive officer on such terms and for an amount as the Directors see fit.

(e) At every Annual General Meeting, one-third of the Directors who are subject to retirement by rotation shall retire from office. A Director shall be eligible for re-election.

(f) Any Director may hold office as a Director or other officer of, or have an interest in, any other company of which the Company is a member or in which the Company is otherwise interested and no such Director shall unless otherwise agreed be liable to account for any remuneration or other benefits receivable by him as a Director or officer of, or by virtue of his interest in, any such other company.

(g) The Directors may confer upon any Director appointed as an executive officer any of the powers exercisable by them as Directors, upon such terms and conditions and with such restrictions as the Directors may determine.

(h) The Directors may establish and maintain any pension, superannuation, benefit or life assurance fund, scheme or arrangement (whether contributory or otherwise) for the benefit of any present or former employee or Director of the Company, its holding company or subsidiaries or predecessors in business provided that it is a condition of the Director that he holds an executive position or agreement to serve with the Company or such other company as director, and the whole, whether a pension, a fund or otherwise, is to be paid by the Company.

(i) Any proposal to issue shares or debentures or other securities of or by the Company or any of its subsidiaries or holding companies or in which the Company has an interest, or to make any arrangement or agreement with any person or persons for the transfer of any shares or debentures or other securities of or otherwise interest in the Company or any of its subsidiaries or holding companies or in which the Company has an interest, or to make any arrangement or agreement with any person or persons for the transfer of any shares or debentures or other securities of or otherwise interest in the Company or any of its subsidiaries or holding companies or in which the Company has an interest, or to make any arrangement or agreement with any person or persons for the transfer of any shares or debentures or other securities of or otherwise interest in the Company or any of its subsidiaries or holding companies or in which the Company has an interest, or to make any arrangement or agreement 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CURRENCIES, MONEY and CAPITAL MARKETS

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

MONEY MARKETS

Dollar nervous

The dollar closed at DM 3.425 against the D-mark up from 3.3970 on Thursday but slipped to DM 3.40 very soon after in New York. This kind of movement was a good reflection of the nervous state of the market. Trading volume was low ahead of the weekend with fears inhibiting speculative interest. It touched a best level of DM 3.4360 in early trading on higher than expected U.S. M1 money supply figures. News of a slight fall in U.S. unemployment had little effect on trading. On Bank of England figures the dollar's index fell to 155.4 from 155.7.

Sterling was firmer overall and

its index rose to 71.1 from 70.8. Against the dollar it was unchanged at \$1.0685 but it rose against the D-mark to DM 3.6275 from DM 3.6250. It eased to Fr 1.06 from Fr 1.0775 but rose against the yen to Yen 728.75 from Yen 728.50 and fell to SwFr 3.08 from SwFr 3.0950.

New York rates

	March 8	Prev. close
1 Spot	\$1.0685-86 98	1.0682-83 98
1 month	1.07-1.0750	1.06-1.0700
3 months	1.06-1.0720	1.06-1.0700
6 months	1.05-1.0730	1.05-1.0730
Forward premiums and discounts apply to the U.S. dollar.		

OTHER CURRENCIES

	Mar. 8	£	\$	Note Rates
Australia Dollar	2.0455-56 111	265.15-285.41	Austria	55.40-55.55
Austrian Schilling	1.5400-1.5440	1.5200-1.5250	Belgium	75.15-75.25
Bahraini Dinar	4.2684-4.294	5.287-5.317	Denmark	1.10-1.11
Bulgarian Lev	5010.7-7.6365	7.0150-7.0200	France	1.16-1.17
Hong Kong Dollar	2.3230-2.3340	7.81-7.82	Germany	5.014-5.014
Iran Rial	105.0	66.50*	Ireland	1.1622-1.1635
Icelandic Króna	0.7475-0.7580	0.20655-0.2075	Italy	2.20-2.21
Luxembourg Franc	2.7720-2.7780	55.16-55.25	Japan	1.15-1.16
Malaysian Ringgit	2.7720-2.7780	10.31-10.41	Portugal	1.10-1.11
New Zealand Dollar	2.2930-2.3200	2.1505-2.1740	Switzerland	1.03-1.05
Norwegian Krone	1.1620-1.1650	1.1620-1.1650	U.S. Dollar	6.0714-6.1012
Singapore Dollar	2.4240-2.4350	2.5120-2.5175	United States	1.04-1.0464
Dharmah	3.9915-3.9825	4.6720-4.7030	Yugoslavia	960.000

* Settling rate.

1 Correction: Kuwait-S (Mar. 7) 0.30655-0.30675.

EXCHANGE CROSS RATES

	Pound Sterling	U.S. Dollar	Deutschmark	Japanese Yen	French Franc	Swiss Franc	Dutch Guild	Italian Lira	Canadian Dollar	Belgian Frank	Note
U.S. Dollar	0.658	1.067	5.028	978.2	4.092	2263.	1.484	72.73			
1		5.413	5.413	10.57	2.800	6.638	2.23	1.400	68.20		
Deutschmark	0.970	0.594	1	76.84	0.849	1.128	0.412	90.06			
Japanese Yen 1,000	3.567	3.580	15.01	1000.	30.58	31.55	1.32	461.0			
French Franc 10	0.904	0.964	3.580	202.0	10	2.765	0.846	1.652	55.28		
Swiss Franc	0.525	0.546	1.178	96.50	1	1.320	0.420	2.52			
Dutch Guilder	1.244	1.241	1.241	1.241	1.241	1.241	1.241	1.241	1.241	1.241	
Italian Lira 1000	1.442	1.471	1.603	125.8	2.768	2.783	1.000	1.000	1.000	1.000	
Canadian Dollar	0.870	0.713	2.429	186.6	7.405	8.062	2.749	1515.	1	48.71	
Belgian Franc 100	1.675	1.446	4.988	563.9	15.30	4.254	5.325	3111.	1	100.	

Asian S closing rates in Singapore). Short-term 2%-8% per cent; seven days 8%-8% per cent; one month 8%-9% per cent; three months 9%-9% per cent; six months 9%-10% per cent; one year 11%-11% per cent; long-term Eurobonds two years 11%-12% per cent; five years 12%-12% per cent nominal. Short-term rates are for U.S. dollars and Japanese yen; others two days' notice.

WEEKLY PRICE CHANGES

REVIEW OF THE WEEK

Copper price boosted after Chile quake

BY OUR COMMODITIES STAFF

THE COPPER market's chief preoccupation this week was last Sunday's earthquake in Chile, the world's biggest producer, accounting for around 15 per cent of world mine production.

Initially concern centred on the possibility of a protracted production stoppage at the El Teniente operation, which accounts for nearly a quarter of Chile's output. Damage at El Teniente proved relatively minor, however, and full production was resumed after only two days.

More serious damage was caused at San Antonio port, through which El Teniente's output is shipped. The port is expected to remain out of action for at least two weeks while the damage is being repaired.

Adding to the inevitable supply disruption from Chile

is earthquake damage to the Ventana smelter's furnace which has resulted in the declaration of force majeure on shipments.

The certainty of significant Chilean shipment delays added to existing fears about a developing tightness of supplies available for delivery on the London Metal Exchange (LME).

Dealers said that stocks in LME warehouses were already at an 11-year low, following another sizeable fall last week.

With the weakness of sterling against the dollar providing a strong background, the Chilean news was enough to push LME copper prices up quite sharply.

Despite easing back £1 yesterday, cash high grade metal ended £2.50 up on the week at £1,239.50 a tonne and the discount against the three-month position narrowed to £1.6 a tonne from £19.50 at the end of last week.

Analysts said the three months quotation, which ended the week £21 up at £1,303.50 a tonne, was likely to work towards a resistance level at the recent five-year peak of £1,335 a tonne as delays occurred in some Chilean shipments. But sentiment in London was affected yesterday by the easier tone on the New York market where traders appear less worried about the Chilean shipment situation.

Copper's rise encouraged gains in other LME base metals, zinc, which is also being influenced by the tightness of near-supplies, ended £7.50 up in the cash position at £842.50 a tonne. Dealers said the tightness was likely to reach its height around the Easter holiday period.

Another notable rise was in aluminium, with the cash position gaining £22.50 to £1,040 a tonne following a £6.50 advance yesterday. Yesterday's rise was mainly in reaction to news that Alcan planned to cut its U.S. production by 60,000 short tons a week.

The biggest mover among the soft (non-metal) commodities was cocoa. Despite gaining £19 yesterday the May futures position ended the week £98 down from £1,255.00 a tonne.

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OIL Forward Brent 1 month drilled down 20c in thin trade while nearby positions held firm. Nymex opened 18c at this level and traded within 18c of this level.

SPOT PRICES

Crude oil - £ per barrel - March

Arab Light - 27.80-27.85

Arab Heavy - 28.55-28.65

Brunei - 28.50-28.60 +0.10

Frontados (Nigeria) - 27.05-28.00 +0.25

PRODUCTS - North West Europe

Gasoline - 847.249 -

Gas Oil - 246.847 -

Heavy fuel oil - 171.174 -

April

GOLD

Gold - £ per ounce - Mar. 8

Gold Bullion - £ per ounce - Mar. 8

Gold Bars - £ per ounce - Mar. 8

Gold and Platinum Coins

Krogerd - 1898.5-1914.5

Krugs - 1874.5-1894.5

Mrs. & Mrs. - 1874.5-1894.5

Mr. & Mrs. - 1874.5-1894.5

Old Sov. - 1874.5-1894.5

New Sov. - 1874.5-1894.5

Old Sov. - 1874

LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE

MARKET REPORT

Revived hopes of lower interest rates spur gilts equities subdued at end of pre-Budget Account

Account Dealing Dates
Gordon
First Decade - Last Account
Dealing Days Dealing Account
Feb 23 Mar 1 Mar 8 Mar 18
Mar 11 Mar 21 Mar 23 Apr 1
Mar 25 April 11 April 12 April 22
Newsmen dealing may start
plus from 8.30 am two business days earlier.

Leading equities ended the pre-Budget trading Account on a subdued note. In contrast to Government stocks which moved higher after registering an improved volume of business, Sofie money market rates three-month interbank eased in 18.5 per cent-supported Gilts edged lower as hopes were raised of lower base rate cuts in Budget time.

The possibility of higher U.S. Prime rates following the latest unexpected sharp surge in money supply caused few worries. Sterling's initial weakness caused some hesitation, but investors soon cast aside their reservations: "when the rate rallied strongly against the dollar".

Thoughts of new Government funding were present throughout official Gilt market trading, and shown after the latest announcement of new funding in the sum of £600m. Three £200m tranches of existing stock - Treasury 9 per cent 1994, Treasury 10 per cent 1990 and Conversion 10 per cent 2002, are to be made available to the market from Monday at current prices.

When dealings resumed after the usual recess, the tone was immediately a shade softer but buyers soon reappeared and longer-dated Gils closed 3 up in places at the session's highest. Index-linked stocks performed well with gains ranging to 1% but conventional shorts managed only minor improvements.

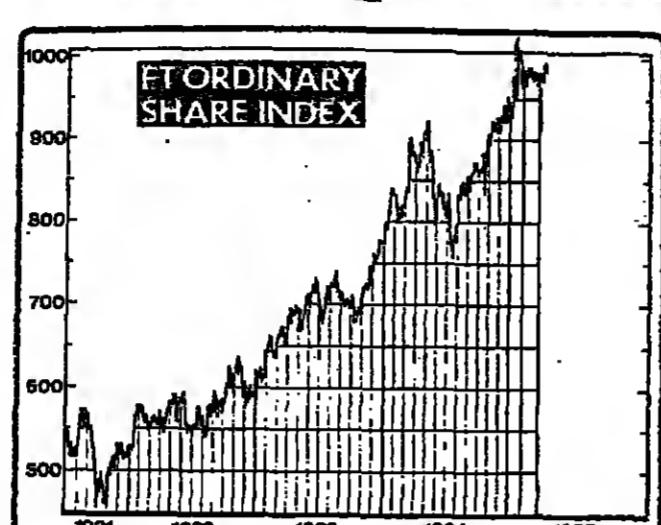
Equity markets were unable to cold-hold on. Wall Street's latest fall and long-only stocks generally showed a price or two gains. End-Account index futures had little time to settle and "new issues" inquiries were negligible. One notable casualty was Hawker Siddeley which ran into an early squall following a gloomy statement from its Canadian subsidiary. Despite a fall of 13 to 245p, after 410p, in Hawker, the FT Ordinary share index rallied after-hours to close 0.5 up on the day for a rise of 13.1 at the week's low of 865.1.

London Banks, respectively, concluded an eventful clearing bank/End-Session with annual profits at the top end of brokers'

forecasts and a surprise 50 per cent scrip-issue; standing around 5 easier in front of the announcement, the shares moved up sharply afterwards to close a net 17 higher at 545p. Other clearers rallied in sympathy and Barrays, at 500p, retitled themselves to 500p, while miners topped the proposed 500p rights issue. Midland gained 7 more for a rise of 14 on the week at 352p, still buoyed by better-than-expected preliminary profits. After opening the season with an impressive 3% per cent profits increase, Westmin closed the day unaltered, but 15 easier at 625p. Elsewhere, Gurdian, at 610p, National Gurdian, at 615p, and National Gurdian, at 615p, both sharply to a new 1984-5 peak of 365p in initial response to a Press suggestion that Hong Kong and Shanghai was a possible suitor. But the latter's denial of any such intention brought a reaction to 340p, still 10 up on balance. Their Discount Houses traded in lively fashion and gains of 5 were recorded in Cater Allen, 510p, and Unisys, 1010p. Among merchant banks, Kleinwort Benson added 5 to 450p ahead of next Thursday's annual results.

Commons' 1m Commercial 3m annual deficit led End-Account profit-taking as the shares closed 4 easier at 185p. Other Composites passed a quietly dull session. The next to report preliminary figures on April 3, gave up to 85p, while Sun Alliance cheapened 6 at 440p. Lloyd's Brokers turned irregular. Stewart Wrightson put on 8 after 210p, but Sedgwick softened 2 in 376p; the latter's annual figures are scheduled for Thursday.

An eventual week for the Building sector finished on a subdued note. Cement producers, firm in recent days following news of a 4% per cent cement price increase to be implemented in June, encountered profit-taking. Blue Circle lost 5 to 140p, and Rugby Portland Cement shed 2 in 127p. Elsewhere, AMEC up 3 to 249p on lack of support and John Laing eased 7 at 165p. Turners, a well-managed company following the board's indicative profit forecast, rallied 5 to 290p, but still sustained a fall on the week of 62. Among Timbers, Meyer International were unsettled by a broker's downgraded profits estimate and shed 3 in 114p. Magnet and Southernsofco softened a couple of pence in 150p, while Travis, Arnold & Martin Ford, 3 farmer for a gain on the week of 10 at 35p.



Concern about the company's financial situation clipped 5 more from Burnett and Hallamshire to 50p.

ICI slipped to 835p, but subsequently rallied to 842p helped by buying for the dividend before settling a couple of pence dearer on balance at 840p. Among other Chemicals, Anchor rose 10 for a two-day gain of 23 at 265p, followed 210p, in response to a broker's recommendation, while British Tar Products attracted further speculative buying and added 2 more to 81p. Elsewhere, Amersham International rose 7 to 347p following a broker's recommendation at 321p.

Waring & Gillow wanted
Leading Retailers, loitously unsettled by thoughts that soy further increase in mortgage rates could hit recently consumer spending, subsequently staged a rally and most finished well above worst levels. Burton, down to 444p earlier, closed only 2 cheaper at 448p, while Marks and Spencer ended unchanged at 137p. After 134p, Woolworth, however, remained firm, albeit in a narrow market to close another 10 higher at 605p. House of Fraser shed 6 to 402p, while Loro Piana dipped to 155p before settling only 3 off on balance at 402p. Secondary Stores featured renewed support for Waring and Gillow, 15 dearer at 138p, while buyers also displayed fresh interest in Foster Brothers, 10 up at 205p. Turners, 14 better at 48ip. Further profit-taking followed 210p, and occasional demand left Renold 2 dearer at 49ip. Finally, a well-managed company following the board's indicative profit forecast, rallied 5 to 290p, but still sustained a fall on the week of 62. Among Timbers, Meyer International were unsettled by a broker's downgraded profits estimate and shed 3 in 114p. Magnet and Southernsofco softened a couple of pence in 150p, while Travis, Arnold & Martin Ford, 3 farmer for a gain on the week of 10 at 35p.

Among Feds, a broker's downgraded profit estimate hit Tait and Lydon 10 lower at 450p, while profit-taking in the wake of the annual results clipped a penny from Cadbury Schweppes, at 665p. Rowntree Mackintosh touched 385p prior to closing at 380p; the annual results are due next Thursday. Northern Feds opened lower at 230p on suggestions that the company may buy Grand Metropolitan's Express Dairies subsidiary, but rallied to the overnight level of 232p. Following the announcement that discussions with Grand Met were concluded to Express Dairies northern liquid milk interests, Grand Metropolitan closed unchanged at 235p, after 230p. Among Food Retailers, further demand ahead of next Wednesday's interim results lifted Beigel 6 to 164p.

Transport, 138p. James Fisher, on the other hand, hardened a couple of pence to 121p. In front of next Wednesday's preliminary figures, recent speculative favourite Walter Baumeister rose 3 for a week's gain of 23 at 163p; the company has sold its controlling interest in Liquid Gas Equipment to Grove Holdings for an immediate consideration of £6.7m.

Among Financials, Framlington gave up 25 to 110p following disappointing first-half figures.

BP up again

Broadly favourable Press comment on BP's increased profits and dividend encouraged good support which boosted the shares to 665p, however, profit-taking subsequently left the quotation only 4 better on the day and 32 up on the week, at 557p. Shell moved erratically in front of the preliminary results, which are due on Friday; initially it fell down to 700p, then picked up after hours and touched 765p before retreating to close to a net 48 lower at 700p. British, reporting full-year figures on March 21, attracted persistent support and ended the day a couple of pence harder at 210p, as did Enterprise Oil, 202p, after 204p.

In Hotels, Norfolk Capital touched 25p on speculation about a possible bid from Trusthouse Forte before shipping back on profit-taking to close unchanged at 21p; CTF softened a penny to 185p.

Delayed for most of the session, leading Miscellaneous Industrial stocks picked up late and final quotations were little altered in balance. Elsewhere, J. Wilkes featured a rise of 2 to 210p in response to the good annual results and proposed one-for-four image repair facility, fell 5 to 433p. Standard Telephones and Cables moved up 6 to 205p with the new nil-pd shares closing 5 dearer at 121p. Highland continued to reflect no investment recommendation at 121p, up 3.

Reports of a large line of shares overhang the market, left Burnet and Hallamshire to 50p.

Renewed institutional support helped British Telecom close 2 dearer and 12 higher on the week at 130p. Plessey rallied 4 at 162p and Racal hardened a couple of pence to 215p. GEC held the overnight level of 185p. The company this week acquired a further 8m of its own shares at 187p per share. Thorn EMI, 187p earlier, this week on news of a subscriber's 218p contract to supply the Amstrad's new image repair facility, fell 5 to 433p. Standard Telephones and Cables moved up 6 to 205p with the new nil-pd shares closing 5 dearer at 121p. Highland continued to reflect no investment recommendation at 121p, up 3.

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Hawker, unsettled initially by an incorrect assessment of its Canadian subsidiary, results fell to 410p before recovering to close 13 off on balance at 428p.

Amersham International rose 7 to 347p following a broker's recommendation at 321p.

Highs and Lows Index
Leading Retailers, loitously unsettled by thoughts that soy further increase in mortgage rates could hit recently consumer spending, subsequently staged a rally and most finished well above worst levels. Burton, down to 444p earlier, closed only 2 cheaper at 448p, while Marks and Spencer ended unchanged at 137p. After 134p, Woolworth, however, remained firm, albeit in a narrow market to close another 10 higher at 605p. House of Fraser shed 6 to 402p, while Loro Piana dipped to 155p before settling only 3 off on balance at 402p. Secondary Stores featured renewed support for Waring and Gillow, 15 dearer at 138p, while buyers also displayed fresh interest in Foster Brothers, 10 up at 205p. Turners, 14 better at 48ip. Further profit-taking followed 210p, and occasional demand left Renold 2 dearer at 49ip. Finally, a well-managed company following the board's indicative profit forecast, rallied 5 to 290p, but still sustained a fall on the week of 62. Among Timbers, Meyer International were unsettled by a broker's downgraded profits estimate and shed 3 in 114p. Magnet and Southernsofco softened a couple of pence in 150p, while Travis, Arnold & Martin Ford, 3 farmer for a gain on the week of 10 at 35p.

Waring & Gillow wanted
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Hawker, unsettled initially by an incorrect assessment of its Canadian subsidiary, results fell to 410p before recovering to close 13 off on balance at 428p.

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AUTHORISED UNIT TRUSTS

Arizona Group—Continued	
Sector Specialist Funds	
Communication Services	148.5
Financial Svcs.	59.7
Gold & Generic	21.7
Invt. Liquidity Mkt.	12.9
Prop. Shares	58.9
Utility Energy	64.8
World Tech	50.2
 Diversified Funds	
American Growth	101.9
American Income	57.1
Am. Smaller Cos.	25.7
Am. Spec. Svc.	78.0

UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

First Unit Trust Mgt. Ltd.	041-204 1821	LB.L. Fund Managers Ltd. (a)	01-623 5405	Perpetual Unit Trust Mgmt. (a) (2)	01-247 7547	Touche, Remnant Unit Trust Mgt. Ltd.	01-049 1250
Westgate St, Glasgow		32 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AR. 01-222 1000		49, Hart Street, Henley-on-Thames.	0491 576688	Meredith Hse, 2, Puddle Dock, ED4.	01-049 1250
Investment	82.1	LB.L. Fund & Gen.	100.7	Growth	01-251	TR American Growth	01-221
Units	1.36	LB.L. High Inc.	50.7	Income	01-251	TR Global Tech.	01-221
Exch. Fund	1.25	LB.L. Security Grp	51.4	Worldwide Recovery	01-251	TR Income Growth	01-221
Unit Trust	1.51			American Growth	01-251	TR Income Recovery	01-221
Unit Trust	1.51			Worldwide Growth	01-251	TR Income Recovery	01-221
Units	2.46			TR Special Fund	01-251	TR Special Cos.	01-221
Units	2.46						01-251
Units	2.46						For other prices please telephone 0100 2000000000
Price on March 6. Next dealing day 12.1							
Fleming & Co Ltd	01-458 5858	Kleinwort Benson Unit Managers	01-623 8000	Trades Union Unit Trust Managers	01-028 8011	Clerical Medical/Fidelity International	0272 250544
100 Newgate St, EC3A 6AN		20, Finsbury Sq, EC3.		TUUT Mar 1	1124.8	100, Wood Street, EC2.	
Cost Gdns	1044 889	KLB Fund Managers Ltd.	01-623 5405		1124.6		
Cost Gdns	1255 57	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1124.4		
Cost Gdns	1255 57	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1124.2		
100 Newgate St		KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1124.0		
Region Unit Mgt. Ltd. (a)	01-628 5181	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1123.8		
100 Newgate St, EC2M 3HQ.		KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1123.6		
Gas	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1123.4		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1123.2		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1123.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1122.8		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1122.6		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1122.4		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1122.2		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1122.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1121.8		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1121.6		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1121.4		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1121.2		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1121.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1120.8		
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Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1120.2		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1120.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1119.8		
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Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1119.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1118.8		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1118.6		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1118.4		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1118.2		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1118.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1117.8		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1117.6		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1117.4		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1117.2		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1117.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1116.8		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1116.6		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1116.4		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1116.2		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1116.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1115.8		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1115.6		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1115.4		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1115.2		
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Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1114.4		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1114.2		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1114.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1113.8		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1113.6		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1113.4		
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Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1112.4		
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Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1110.8		
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Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1109.4		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1109.2		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1109.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1108.8		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1108.6		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1108.4		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1108.2		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1108.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1107.8		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1107.6		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1107.4		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1107.2		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 5405		1107.0		
Units	207.8	KLB Fund Managers Ltd. (a)(b)	01-623 54				

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BRITISH FUNDS

	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1984-85	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
"Shorts" (Lives up to Five Years)						
1985-86	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
Five to Fifteen Years						
1984-85	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1985-86	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1986-87	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1987-88	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1988-89	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1989-90	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1990-91	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1991-92	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1992-93	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1993-94	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1994-95	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1995-96	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1996-97	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1997-98	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1998-99	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
1999-2000	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2000-01	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2001-02	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2002-03	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2003-04	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2004-05	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2005-06	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2006-07	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2007-08	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2008-09	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2009-10	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2010-11	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2011-12	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2012-13	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2013-14	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2014-15	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2015-16	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2016-17	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2017-18	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2018-19	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2019-20	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2020-21	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2021-22	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2022-23	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2023-24	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2024-25	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2025-26	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2026-27	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2027-28	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2028-29	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2029-30	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2030-31	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2031-32	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2032-33	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2033-34	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2034-35	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2035-36	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2036-37	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2037-38	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2038-39	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2039-40	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2040-41	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2041-42	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2042-43	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2043-44	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2044-45	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2045-46	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2046-47	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2047-48	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2048-49	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2049-50	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2050-51	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2051-52	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2052-53	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2053-54	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2054-55	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2055-56	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2056-57	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2057-58	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2058-59	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2059-60	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2060-61	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2061-62	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2062-63	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2063-64	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2064-65	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2065-66	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2066-67	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2067-68	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2068-69	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2069-70	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2070-71	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2071-72	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2072-73	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2073-74	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2074-75	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2075-76	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2076-77	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2077-78	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2078-79	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2079-80	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2080-81	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2081-82	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2082-83	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2083-84	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2084-85	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2085-86	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2086-87	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2087-88	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2088-89	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2089-90	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2090-91	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2091-92	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2092-93	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2093-94	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2094-95	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2095-96	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2096-97	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2097-98	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2098-99	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2099-2000	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2000-2001	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2001-2002	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2002-2003	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2003-2004	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2004-2005	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2005-2006	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2006-2007	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2007-2008	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2008-2009	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2009-2010	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2010-2011	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2011-2012	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2012-2013	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2013-2014	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2014-2015	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2015-2016	Stock	Price	+/-	Mv.	Cw.	Ytd.
2016-201						



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MAN IN THE NEWS

Genscher the Bonn survivor

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

FOR A moment last week, it seemed just like old times. There was Hans-Dietrich Genscher in Moscow, talking about detente and disarmament with his old sparring partner Andrei Gromyko, on the first leg of a sweep through three East European capitals. The press conference afterwards, the soothing words delivered in that familiar, slightly rasping voice, the theatrically short notice at which the visit was arranged — all was vintage Genscher.

In a way, too, the fact that he was there at all seemed proof of the legendary indestructibility of the man. Hardly a fortnight before, after all, he had stepped down as leader of the small but fulcral Free Democrat (FDP) party, the job which has underpinned his presence in every Cabinet in Bonn since October 1989. The audible relief in the FDP which greeted his going was a measure of its changed feelings towards him. The divisions within the Free Democrats and the party's slide in popularity both can be traced to the decision of



Hans-Dietrich Genscher

Herr Genscher to switch sides in October 1982, abandoning the Social Democrats (SPD) in favour of the Christian Democrats (CDU).

The Genscher diplomatic luster, too, has been looking distinctly tarnished of late. Bonn's Opositifit, and its capacity to act as a conduit between the two superpowers, have always been his abiding interests as Foreign Minister. Yet the former, at least until this week, had been at a low ebb, while the latter has become an irrelevance now that Moscow and Washington manage to talk to each other directly. The word was going around, in short, that Hans-Dietrich Genscher was losing not just his touch but his influence as well. And it's not difficult to see why.

The inelegant jumping of coalition horses in 1982 seemed to prove that the conjuror had run out of tricks. What had previously seemed unequalled tactical dexterity now appeared slippery opportunism, and a desire to cling to power at any cost.

A day for Hans-Dietrich without a flight is a day lost; Helmut Kohl (before he became Chancellor it should be said) once joked of Genscher's awesomely inspiring ambition to be everywhere at once. And it is easy to sneer at the frenetic travelling of which this week offered no more than a standard example as the illusionist at work once more: offering modest achievement at best, but publicly gatore for himself and his party. That would, however, be less than fair.

No one understands better than he that Germany's tragic history this century is a fact, not to be forgotten with the simple changing of generations — least of all in Eastern Europe which suffered most from German aggression. The fireless use of words like reconciliation, dialogue and trust may not be very exciting, but they convey Genscher's awareness that normalisation of relations with nations like Russia and, above all, Poland will take a long time yet.

His own life has given an acute grasp of the delicacy of Germany's place in modern Europe. Born near Halle, in what is now East Germany, in 1927, he only crossed to the West seven years after war's end, at the age of 23. Asked why he did not become a Communist then, his habitual answer is "Because I happened to have read Marx and Lenin."

But that has not prevented him winning the respect of Mr Gromyko, the only prominent Foreign Minister in the world who has been in the job longer than Mr Genscher. It also may be smaller reason why, despite predictions to the contrary, Herr Genscher's final demise still may be some way off.

Last striking miners likely to return

BY JOHN LLOYD AND MARK MEREDITH

THE FINAL flickers of resistance in the coalfields are likely to be doused this weekend. The 2,000 miners in Kent and the 3,000 at some Scots pits who have remained on strike in support of colleagues sacked during the dispute meet to vote on a return to work.

At the same time, the National Working Miners Group is considering further legal action against the National Union of Mineworkers — this time on the proposed 50p-a-week levy which will be the subject of an NUM ballot later this month. A meeting of the group this weekend is thought certain to agree to seek legal opinion on proceeding against the NUM if it goes ahead with the proposal.

Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour leader, accused the Government of endorsing split-level elements within the National Coal Board management when he addressed a Labour Party conference in Scotland where the NCB has

taken a hard line in refusing to re-instate any of the 180 men sacked during the strike.

He said: "It cannot be right to treat men who have scavenged for coal or daubed a wall or been found guilty of very generalised offences like obstruction, unlawful assembly or breach of the peace and treat them as if they were guilty of some grievous crime."

Mr Kinnock's speed was well, if not rapidly, received; one man shouting "Good quickly," said council members had been concerned about the isolation of the tiny, loss-making field-and many had felt that the NCB was "coming for Kent."

He said: "The movement has got to realise that the legacy that we've got as a result of the broad movement not giving us physical support is that we're now seeing the break-up of the NUM."

The Scots pits of Boggie, Castlehill, Comrie, Longannet and Solsgirth are to vote over the weekend on a return to work — with strong indications that they will fall into line with the area council decision to do so, taken on Wednesday.

There were 7½ rather than 8 hours long had been ignored — and where men had continued to work for only 7½ hours, a half hour's wages had been deducted.

The Keot area council yesterday voted to recommend to a mass meeting of the coalfield today that the miners return to work on Monday. Mr Jack Collins, Kent area secretary, said council members had been

concerned about the isolation of the tiny, loss-making field-and many had felt that the NCB was "coming for Kent."

They believe, however, that the continued attempt by the national leadership to prosecute the dispute by means other than a strike will further distance the NUM leadership from the rank and file, and further discredit the union in the men's eyes. In particular, they believe that they can wean miners away from attachment to the NUM policy of continuing the overtime ban by pit-by-pit negotiations.

South Wales cash plea, Page 4.

Lloyds Bank profits rise 12% to £468m

BY DAVID LASCELLES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

LLOYDS BANK yesterday closed the big clearing banks' annual results season by showing a 12 per cent rise in profits to £468m.

This means Britain's Big Four banks earned a total of just under £2bn pre-tax last year, an increase of some 12 per cent over 1983 despite the huge losses sustained by Midland Bank through Crocker National, its trouble-plagued Californian subsidiary.

Lloyds, the smallest of the four, also announced a one-for-two scrip issue. The shares closed at 545p, up 17p last night, and all the clearing bank's shares ended the week on a firm note.

Sir Jeremy Morse, Lloyds chairman, described the results as "encouraging given that we are still in the trough of the banking cycle and have had to absorb the impact of last year's UK Budget". That altered the system of capital allowances and landed banks with large tax losses.

Sir Jeremy said that Lloyds' capital position had "stood up well" to last year's strain and he saw no need for a rights issue. However, Lloyds' balance sheet would benefit from a greater proportion of shareholders' funds and Lloyds would aim to raise its return on equity.

The ratio of free capital to total assets — a key measure of balance sheet strength — declined slightly from 5.2 per cent, Sir Jeremy said.

Among Lloyds' heaviest costs was the need to increase sharply its provisions against bad and doubtful debts abroad,

THE BIG FOUR BANKS

	Pre-tax profits (£m)	Debt provisions (£m)
NatWest	518	671
Midland	225	135
Barclays	557	655
Lloyds	419	468
1983	518	351
1984	671	416
1983	225	318
1984	135	525
1983	557	425
1984	655	219
1983	419	269

where it is relatively the most heavily exposed of the UK clearers to Latin America. Sir Jeremy said Lloyds would continue to work with other banks and official institutions to resolve the Third World debt problem which was also being eased by the world economic recovery.

Profits on Lloyds' domestic business, on the other hand,

were 25 per cent as the bank won more business in the quality market where it aims its services.

Lloyds is now the largest state agent in the UK through its Black Horse Agencies. Mr Fred Crawley, chief general manager, UK, said the business would be further expanded this year although he declined to say how profitably it was.

Sir Jeremy also confirmed that Lloyds had decided to develop its own securities business rather than participate in the City revolution by acquiring a member firm of the Stock Exchange. He said: "We don't want to be an enormous player. We want to build up our expertise."

Pre-tax profits and Big Four's results, Page 22.

Japan excavator makers face dumping penalties

BY IAN RODGER

DUMPING DUTIES of up to 33 per cent have been imposed on Japanese makers of hydraulic excavators by the European Commission.

The decision, to be announced today, follows a complaint last July by 18 European excavator makers. Japanese excavator sales in EEC countries, mainly Britain, rose from 204 in 1980 to 906 in 1983.

In an interim judgment, the Commission decided that dumping had taken place. It imposed duties of 33 per cent on Kobelco-Kobe Steel, 27 per cent on Komatsu, 22 per cent on Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, 12 per cent on Hitachi and 3 per cent on Japan Steel Works. The duties apply on excavator models from 10 to 35 tonnes.

Last July, when the complaint was about to be filed, the

sector employers and the blue-collar workers' trades union confederation agreed to a national wage framework under which total labour costs would not be allowed to rise by more than 5 per cent. This was in line with the voluntary ceiling demand set by the Government.

The two main importers into Europe are Hitachi and Komatsu. Hitachi has grown from a minor position in 1980 to become the UK market leader, with an 18 per cent share of the £50m a year market. Komatsu has also grown with a 13 per cent share. JCB is second with 14 per cent.

Mr Roger Shute, chief executive of Brahm Miller, the C.H. Beamer subsidiary that represents Hitachi in Britain, said the decision would slow down the company's plans to increase its UK content in the excavators from its present level of 23 per cent. "We had intended to be at 30 per cent by 1986 but that is no longer possible," Mr Shute said.

Mr Ian Patterson, sales manager of Marubeni-Komatsu UK, said the decision was "a little unfair" because it was based on the difference between Komatsu's home market and export prices. The company would appeal against it.

Sweden sets price freeze to bolster inflation policy

BY KEVIN DONE IN STOCKHOLM

THE SWEDISH Government yesterday imposed a temporary price freeze and a system of price controls amid fears that wage costs and rising prices threaten to jeopardise its ambitious target of reducing the inflation rate by more than 50 per cent by the end of the year.

The latest price freeze — the second time the Social Democratic Government has resorted to this device in less than 12 months — is aimed at preventing companies raising prices above levels warranted by increased costs. The Government's fear is that, on present price trends, it will be unable to deliver on its promise to the trade unions of real wage increases this year.

The move was immediately welcomed by the unions, and in an election year, it was seized on by the opposition parties as a sign that economic policy is failing in its main objective of cutting inflation drastically.

The price controls mean that companies will have to negotiate price increases they seek with the Price and Cartel Office, on the basis of actual cost increases including higher labour costs.

The price freeze will then be lifted, sector by sector, when companies give "reasonable"

guarantees about their pricing intentions over the next three to nine months.

Higher prices for imported goods can be passed directly to consumers and daily newspapers have been exempted from the freeze.

Earlier this year, the private sector employers and the blue-collar workers' trades union confederation agreed to a national wage framework under which total labour costs would not be allowed to rise by more than 5 per cent. This was in line with the voluntary ceiling demand set by the Government.

Subsequent sector by sector pay talks have become bogged down, and the Government is afraid that long delays could persuade companies with good profits to grant local pay increases that destroy its fragile anti-inflationary policy.

Mr Kjell-Olov Feldt, the Finance Minister, said that government inquiries showed companies were planning price increases of 6.7 per cent this year. The Government is publicly sticking to its target of reducing inflation to 3 per cent by the end of the year.

However, prices in February were still running 8.1 per cent higher than a year earlier.

CHIEF PRICE CHANGES YESTERDAY

(Prices in peace unless otherwise indicated)			
Rises			
Treas 14 pc 1984-01	£120 +		
Treas 21pc LL 2001	£100 +		
Amerash Int'l	37 +	7	
Anchor Chemical	285 +	10	
Bejam	151 +	6	
E.R.I.C.	245 +	15	
Group Lotus Car	115 +	5	
Haden	317 +	12	
Hanover Invn	125 +	11	
Hughes Princips	235 +	22	
LCP	133 +	3	
Falls			
A. C. Cars	53 -	10	
Cifer	40 -	13	
Hawker Siddeley	423 -	13	
Jehsens Drilling	125 -	12	
Shell Trans	770 -	13	
Tato & Lyle	450 -	10	
f Nil-paid			

UK today: Mild, dry and sunny after early fog and light frost. Outlook: Cloud and occasional rain spreading from North.

WORLDWIDE WEATHER

Yester	Today	Mon	Tues	
°C	°C	°C	°C	
Algeria	14	57	60	59
Angola	24	52	53	54
Armenia	6	45	48	50
Athens	11	52	53	55
Azores	17	63	63	64
Bahrain	34	45	46	47
Bangladesh	35	45	46	47
Barbados	26	51	52	53
Belarus	10	50	51	